

# THE ARCHITECT & BUILDING NEWS

25 FEBRUARY 1954 · VOL. 205 : No. 8 : ONE SHILLING WEEKLY

- SOUTHALL TECHNICAL COLLEGE EXTENSIONS
- ACADEMY CINEMA, OXFORD STREET
- FROZEN PIPES

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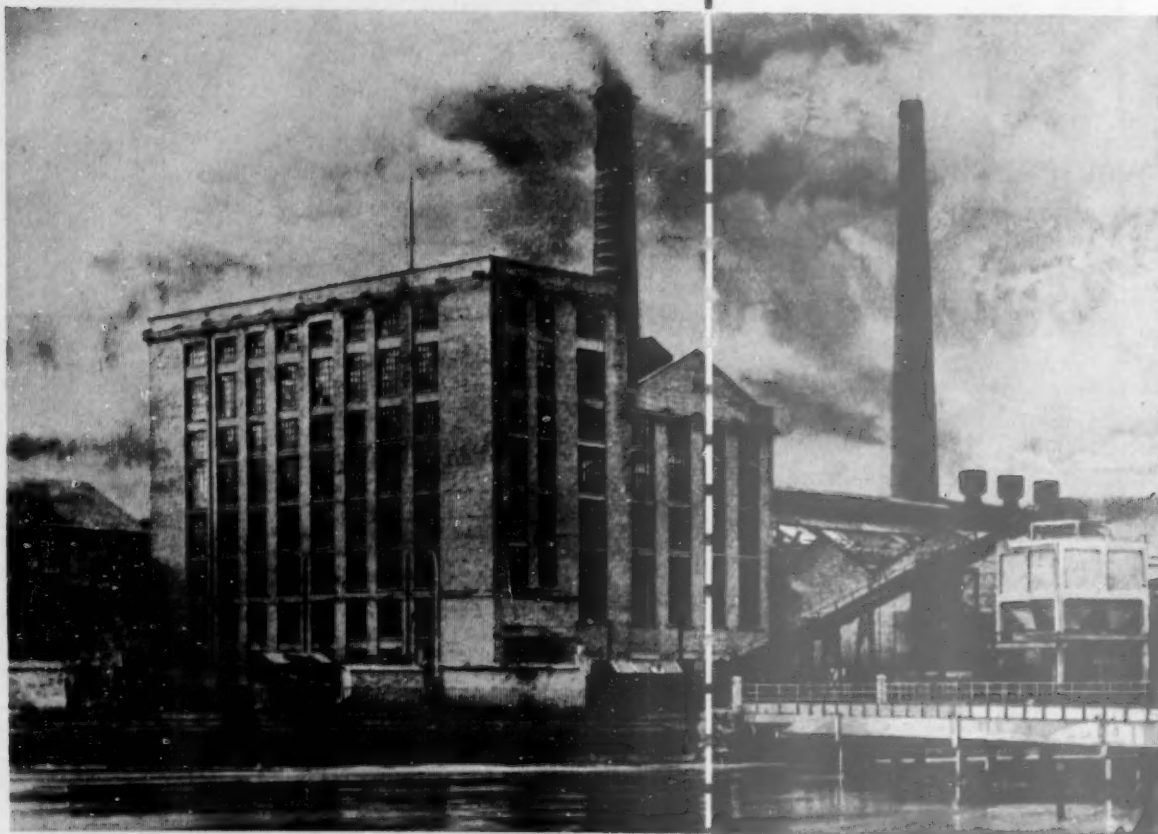
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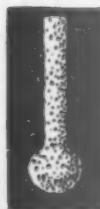
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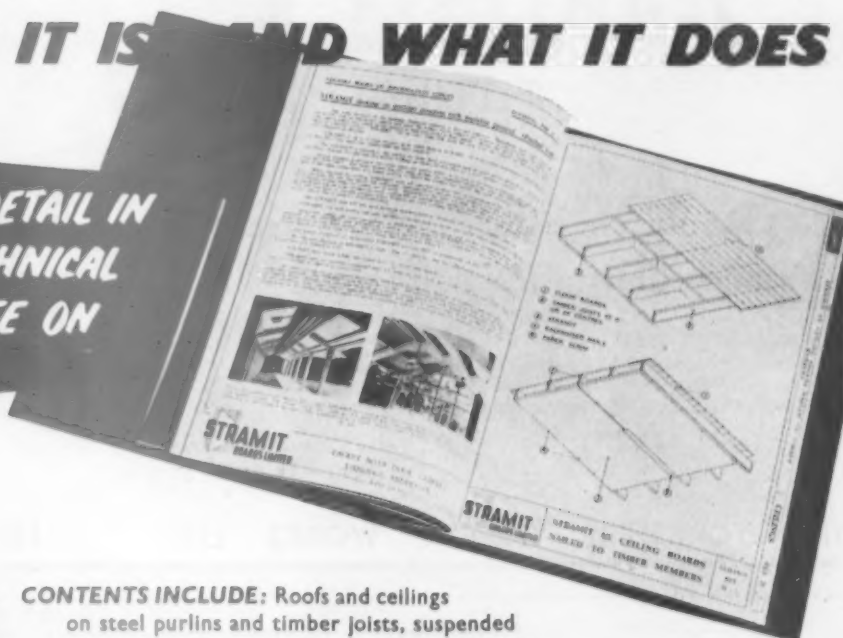
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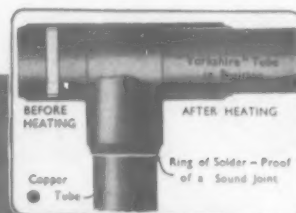
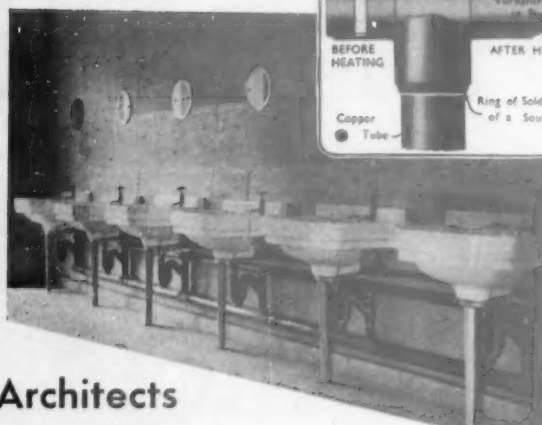
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# 5 reasons

why

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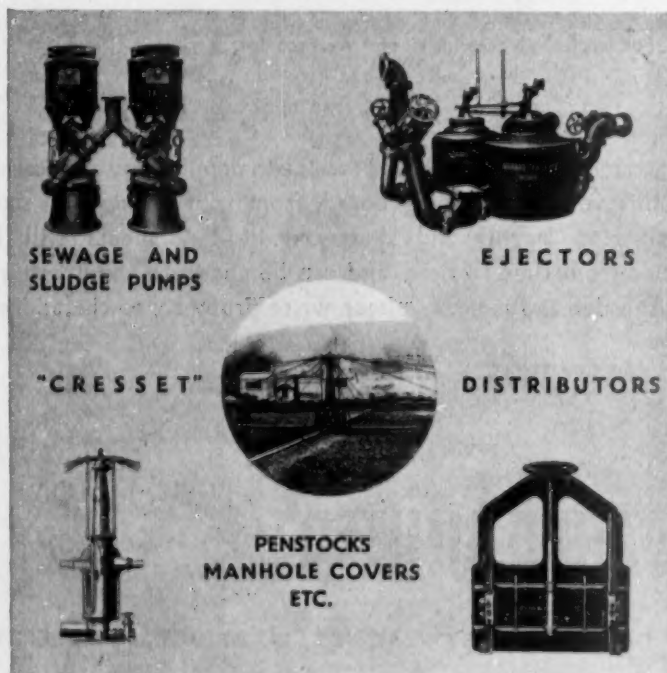
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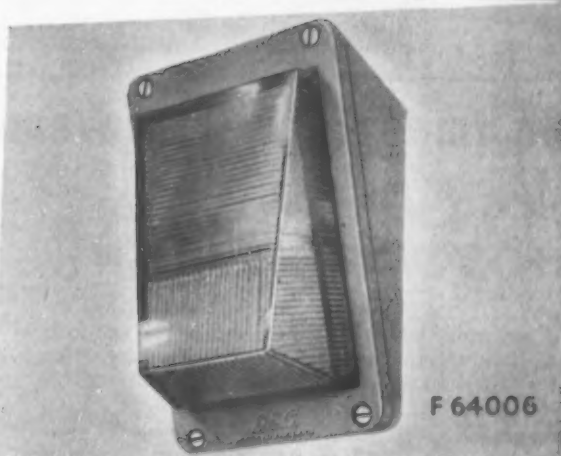
F 64004



F 64008



F 64030



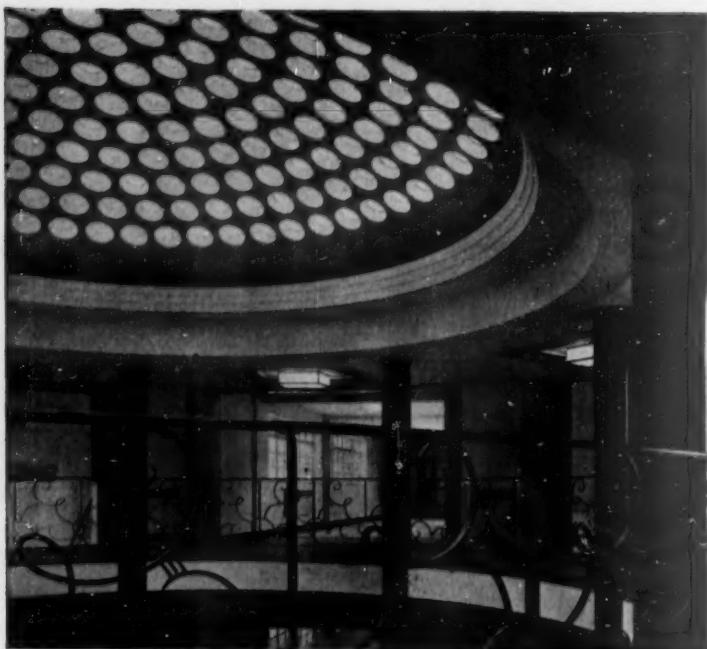
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Patent No. 664463



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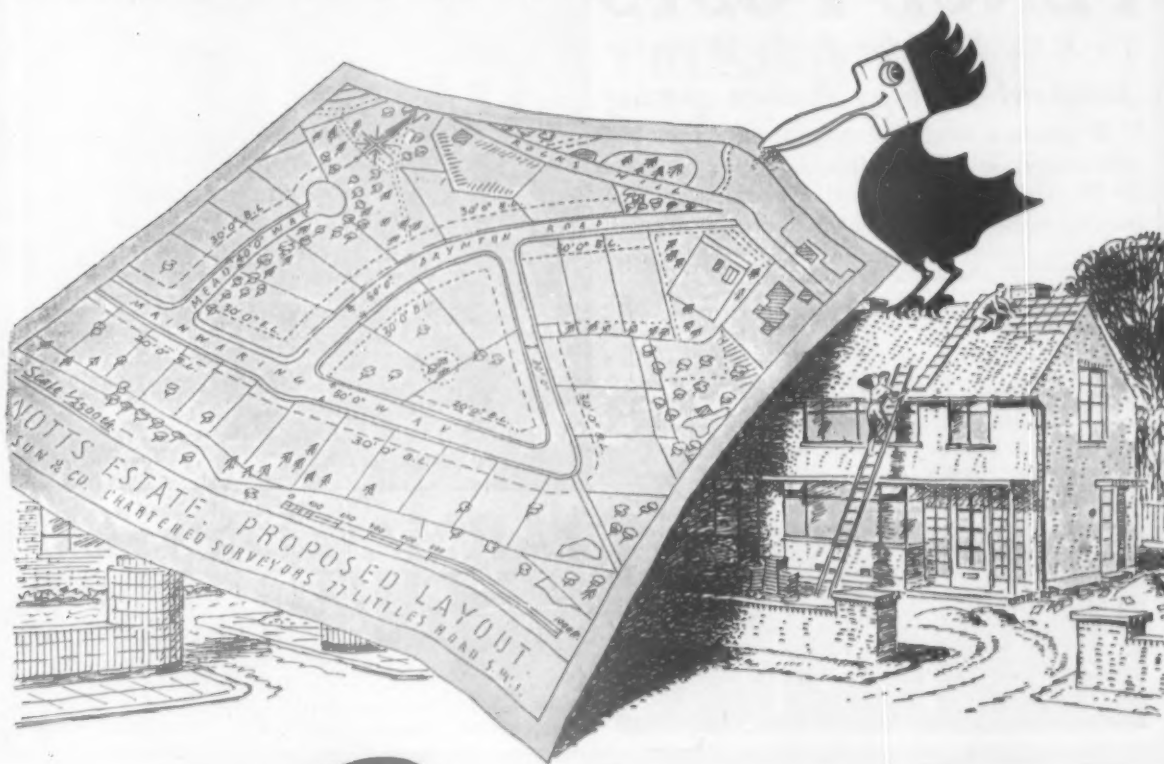
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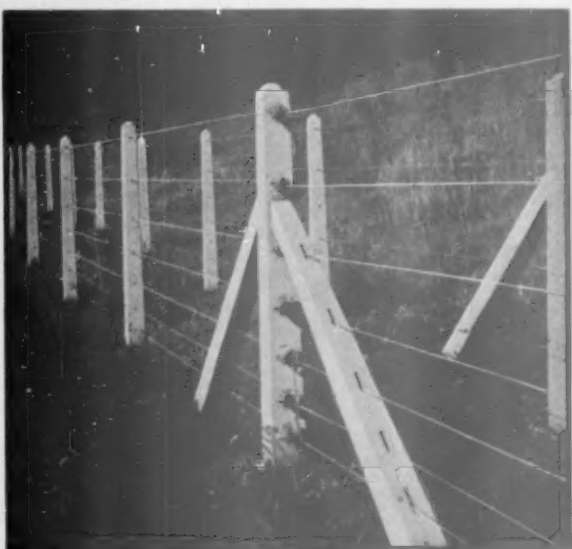
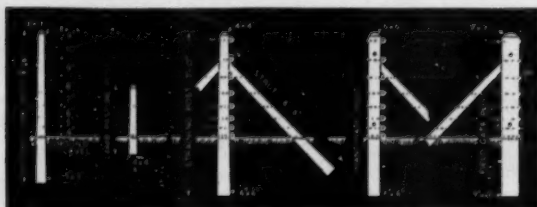
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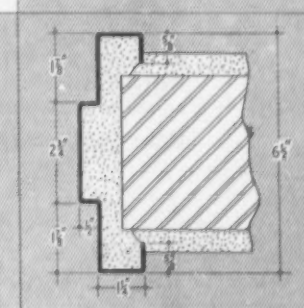
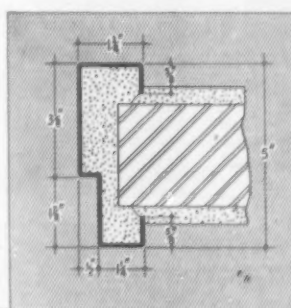
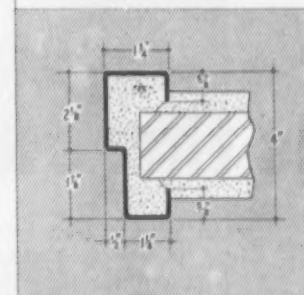
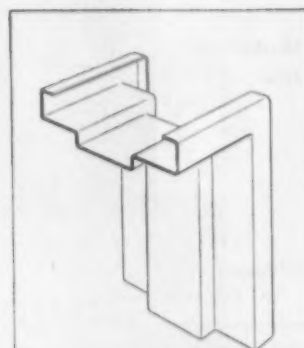
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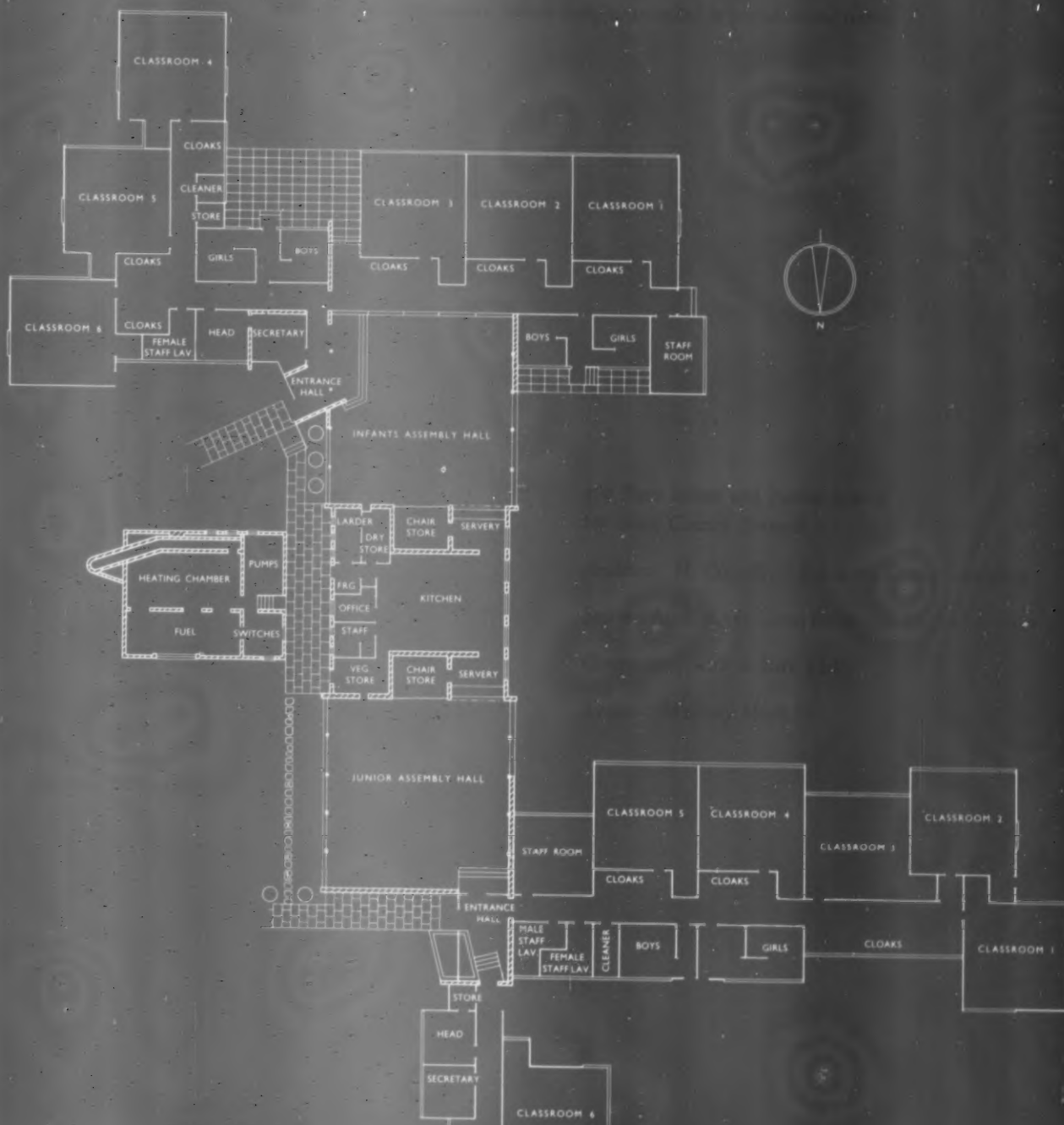
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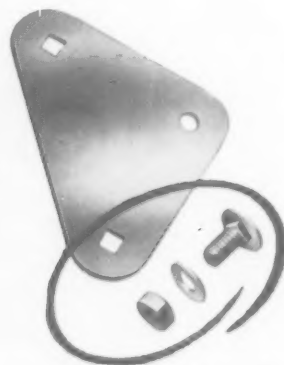


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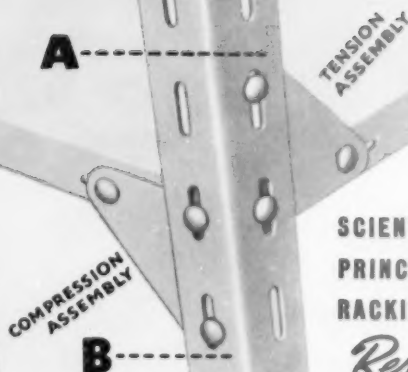
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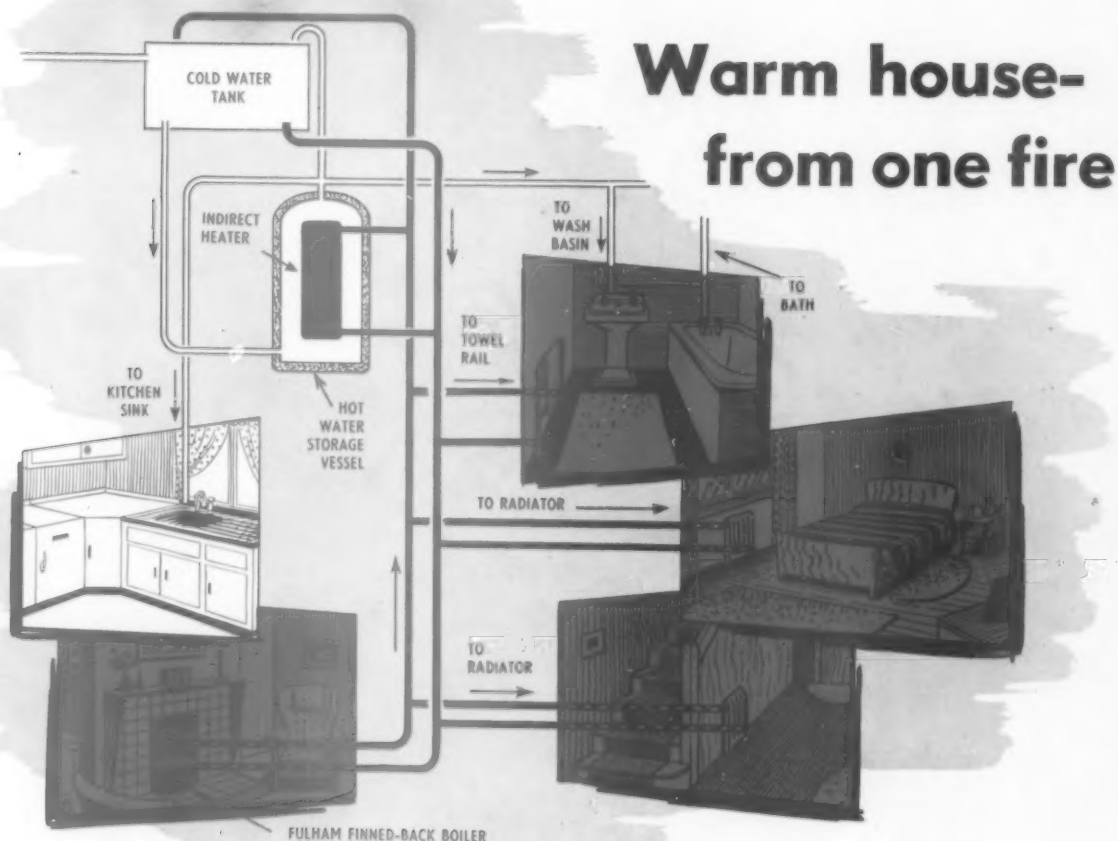
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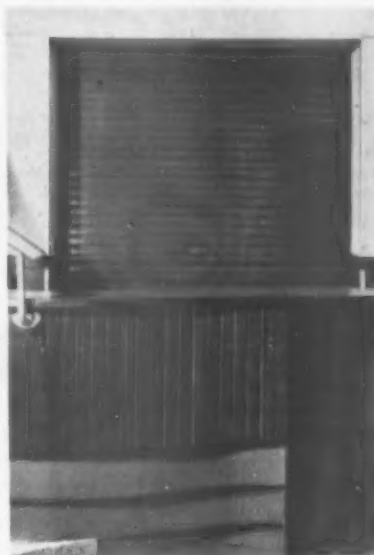
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## INNER LONDON TRAFFIC AGAIN

THE London County Council have considered the question of car parking in inner London as result of their membership of the Working Party appointed by the Minister of Transport in 1951. The General Purposes Committee of the Council, having obtained the views of other committees concerned, have now made their comments and recommendations to the Council.

In general the Council now approve the idea of parking meters for the sites suggested by the Working Party in what might be called their pilot scheme, without necessarily committing themselves to any extension of this system of street parking. In this connection we have never seen any answer to our enquiry in a previous leader on this subject\* as to whether charging for parking legalizes the obstruction of a highway which is already established as a highway for free public movement.

Again, in principle, the Council have agreed to both underground and multi-storeyed garages in suitable localities. Their chief objection to parks under the London squares seems to be the loss of trees which would result. So they express agreement with the Town Planning Committee that such works should be limited at first to Finsbury Square and Grosvenor Square; the former in a particularly treeless area already, and the latter having recently been replanned without much regard to the heavy demands of the American occupation of the area. On the other hand the Parks Committee do not approve outright parking under squares and suggest awaiting the detailed plans for such proposals.

The Council agree to further exploration of the possible use of open-sided multi-storeyed car-park buildings; such buildings would, it is pointed out, be economical and would avoid the necessity of complying with the more costly requirements of the Building Act for more enclosed buildings. They

further suggest the very sensible exploration of the use of spaces over railway cuttings for the erection of multi-storeyed garages, a matter not entered into by the Working Party on grounds of alleged cost. Sundry other suggestions were mentioned without much decisive contribution, as, for example, car parks under highways, garages under Royal Parks and surface car-parks off highways.

In fact the whole of the recommendations are either for further investigation or for rather pious support of the Working Party's findings; though we are glad to note attention was called to the able reservations to the Working Party's Report which were made by the representative of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government;† very little or no official comment has been made on these reservations since their publication and the considerable amount of support expressed for them at the time. Had they been made by a private architect rather than by an official one, perhaps more would have been heard.

Doubtless the actions of the L.C.C. and their expressions of opinion on these matters will assist some partial solution of this urgent problem of traffic congestion in the centre of London. But we cannot but observe that such assistance comes nearly twelve months after the publication of the Working Party's Report. The Working Party itself took two years to complete and publish its work. In the three years that have thus passed the congestion has increased to almost unbearable limits, and the increase continues at a faster rate than ever. Long-term planning is essential to meet the new conditions, and it should cover the widest possible field, but that does not preclude actions of a more temporary nature to avoid the appalling waste of human effort and time, and therefore money, that such congestion causes. Is it really necessary to insist again that this is an urgent matter, requiring realistic, quick and bold action?

\*January 7, 1954.

†See Leader of March 26, 1953.



The exhibition of photographs of Venetian Villas opens to-day at the R.I.B.A. Two of them are illustrated above; Left: Villa Manin a Passariano, and Right: Villa Barbaro.

## EVENTS AND COMMENTS

### THE R.I.B.A. DINNER

To be honest, I enjoyed myself very much at the R.I.B.A. dinner held at Grosvenor House last week. I would have liked a little longer before dinner for drinking and saying good evening to everyone, but I suppose the waiters had to get home or something. This year, apart from the long, high table where the principal guests sat, there were circular tables for ten. I believe these gave the organizers a headache, but I had no complaints about the company at our table. The dinner was very good but served too fast, then again one must remember the waiters. The coffee was particularly good. The Light Orchestra of the Corps of Royal Engineers ushered in the presidential party with a brisk march entitled "Martial Moments." Not even Field-Marshal Lord Alexander of Tunis kept in step. The speeches were a great deal better than last year, but even so a prodigious number of chestnuts were drawn from the fire, aired and put back for future use. The President alone was not guilty. Lord Alexander, who proposed the health of the R.I.B.A., started off by saying that, of course, he knew nothing about architecture, BUT . . . He described the beautiful occidental bathroom of an oriental ruler, where the faucets (Canadian influence) were not connected to either hot or cold services. He said how much he admired old Quebec and the skyscrapers of New York. Nearer home he praised Liverpool Cathedral and Battersea Power Station as our two finest modern buildings, but I am not sure whether he realized that they were both by the same architect. British plumbing caught it, but Lord Alexander blamed the architects instead of the byelaws. He liked central heating, but found Canadian room temperatures too high. It was a good, sound speech, and few architects would have done as well at a gathering of Army officers. The President's speech was easily the best of the evening. I wish I could reproduce his reply to Lord Alexander in full. He started by describing the company as being seated in find modular co-ordination and as looking as prosperous a lot as one

could wish to see. This was not surprising, he said, as most of them were guests. Things were often not what they seemed. When paying off a taxi recently the driver asked Mr. Robertson whether he was not some kind of an old actor. I am offering no prizes for guesses at which old actor. In the same easy and smiling way the President moved on to regret the absence of the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Works. Of the latter he said there had been criticism of his speech about the rebuilding of the City of London. At least he had said and done something, and no one ever pleased everyone.

Sir Hugh Casson, who proposed the toast of the guests, was also in good form, but even he used two chestnuts, and when I tackled him about them he said it was my fault for being so loyal and going to listen to him so often. Sir Hugh, referring to Lord Alexander's hobby, said that he was almost certainly the second best painter in the cabinet. Soldiers, politicians and judges could all look forward to fifteen inches in the obituary column of *The Times*, they were always praised and never criticized. Not so artists, for the writers of obituary notices always thought it necessary to belittle their work and seldom praised it (Mr. Nigel Balchin is the originator of this remark, I believe). No one, Sir Hugh said, would dream of suggesting that Mr. Justice So-and-so's judgments were timid and derivative. In mentioning some of the chief guests personally, Sir Hugh said that as M. Massigli and Mr. Singh (who, incidentally, did not seem to be present) came from other countries, their interest in the arts could be therefore assumed.

Lord Asquith of Bishopstone replied for the guests and said that he, too, knew nothing about architecture. His remarks belied him for he described the architectural rewards of the various legal circuits. He told the story of the judge from the northern circuit, who was appointed to the Western Circuit, and who wrote in the suggestions book at the judge's lodgings at Exeter: "I am accustomed to a larger cathedral."



Lord Asquith also told the story of the American visitor to Lincoln cathedral who said that he considered it "mighty fine of them to call this little God-box after our Abe."

Thinking it over afterwards, I wondered whether in any other country a senior Cabinet Minister and Field-Marshal, and a leading judge would deny a knowledge of architecture. I asked a layman about it. He said that only in this country would such people be honest enough to admit it.

I have been surprised at the number of members of the R.I.B.A. whom I have met who have told me quite bluntly that the reason that they did not attend the dinner was as a protest because they thought it ought to be held at the R.I.B.A. If they continue to remain silent in their protest the dinner will be held in an hotel next year. Now is the time for them to make their views known. I am told that there were 560 people present. At least half were guests. The room can seat nearly a thousand.

### MODULAR CO-ORDINATION

Those interested in modular co-ordination are, generally speaking, divided into two classes. The theorists who are for ever seeking, and never finding, the perfect module, and the manufacturers who want to start turning out the standardized units to-morrow. A society which contains members representing these two schools of thought is bound to be subject to stresses and strains. If the theorist would stop baying for the moon, and the manufacturers would have a little more patience, some good would almost certainly come of the idea.

The Modular Society was indeed fortunate in having Professor Hugo van Kuyck to speak at its meeting last week. I have written about this truly remarkable man before. He is architect, civil engineer, and professor of physics. He served as a Lieutenant-Colonel in the U.S. Army and was decorated by their navy, army and air force separately. He is also a much-decorated Lieutenant-Commander in the Belgian Navy and is an O.B.E. He designs his own yachts and once sailed one of them to the Caribbean. Added to this, Professor van Kuyck knows what he is talking about. He described an experiment that he is carrying out with modular co-ordination on a very large housing project at Antwerp. My picture shows one of the blocks. The whole scheme includes eighteen hundred dwellings with community buildings and shops. All the services of the flats and houses have been worked out on a module of 10 cm, which corresponds closely to 4in. All plumbing and sanitary services have been prefabricated on this basis with most interesting results. The approach to the problem has been "let us see what we can get out of modular co-ordination" rather than "here is a module, let us make everything fit it." At Professor van Kuyck's express wish I am saying very little about this most interesting scheme, for he wishes to delay publication until the experiment has been completed, and that will not be for another two years. The most that he is prepared to say at this stage about the success or otherwise of his work is that he has learned enough about modular co-ordination on his project to make him reasonably certain that it is worth while and that important savings in labour charges will be made.

### MR. TRYSTAN EDWARDS, GEOGRAPHER

When I was a student, Mr. Trystan Edwards' books on design were in everyone's hands, he used to come and talk to us and we listened as to the oracle. We rarely see Mr. Edwards now except that he is a fairly regular attendee, but, unfortunately, an infrequent speaker, at meetings of the Architecture Club. He is known to be very interested in education in South Wales and he contributes articles on architecture to the *Financial Times*. Now he has appeared in a new hat, as a geographer. He has devised a new map of the world using what he calls the Homalographic Projection, which gives the relative areas of the various countries correctly and with the minimum distortion of their shapes. As one who has always skipped those odd-shaped worlds at the beginning of atlases because they give me an uncomfortable feeling about the universe, I am slightly biased against anything which makes countries look unusual in shape; that is to say, different from Mercator's projection. I can see, however, that for political geography the northern and southern parts of Mercator are hopelessly misleading. The new projection does most peculiar things with Scandinavia and even the British Isles is by my standards not quite itself. Round about the equator things are reasonably normal but Africa has become very long. You may read all about Mr. Trystan Edwards, "politically minded mathematician and architect," in a booklet entitled *A New Map of the World*, published by Batsford at 5s.

ABNER



Housing at Antwerp  
(see paragraph on Modular Co-ordination).

## NEWS OF THE WEEK

### R.I.B.A. Dinner

On Friday, February 19, the R.I.B.A. held a dinner at Grosvenor House, Park Lane. This was the third dinner held since the war; the first was in 1947 and the second in 1952.

On arrival at Grosvenor House, guests were received by the President, Mr. Howard Robertson, and Mrs. Robertson.

After the loyal toasts, the toast of the R.I.B.A. was proposed by Field-Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis, Minister of Defence, and was replied to by Mr. Howard Robertson. The toast of the Guests was proposed by Sir Hugh Casson, President of the Architectural Association and was replied to by Lord Asquith of Bishopstone.

The following were amongst the six hundred members and guests who attended the dinner: Lady MacAlister; Professor Sir Patrick Abercrombie; Sir Percy Thomas; Sir Charles Mole; Sir Walter Fletcher; Dame Enid Russell-Smith; Mr. H. S. Goodhart-Rendel; Mr. Michael Waterhouse, PP/R.I.B.A., and Mrs. Waterhouse; Mr. Ernest Marples, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Local Government; Mr. E. D. Jefferiss Mathews, Chairman, A.R.C.U.K., Vice-President, R.I.B.A.; Mr. S. Rowland Pierce, Vice-President, R.I.B.A., and Mrs. Pierce; Mr. C. H. Aslin, Vice-President, R.I.B.A., and Mrs. Aslin; Mr. H. G. Griffin, Secretary, Council for the Preservation of Rural England; Mr. W. P. Shepherd-Barron, President, Institution of Civil Engineers; Mr. William C. Crocker, President, The Law Society; Mr. R. S. Williams, President, London Master Builders' Association; Mr. J. H. Mills, President, N.F.B.T.O.; Mr. G. A. Coombe, President, R.I.C.S.; Mr. Miles Francis, President, Chartered Auctioneers and Estate Agents' Institute; the French Ambassador (Monsieur Rene Massigli); the Ambassador for the Irish Republic (Mr. F. H. Boland); the Duke of Wellington; Mr. L. R. S. Singh, Minister representing the High Commissioner for India; Field Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis, Minister of Defence, and Lady Alexander; Lord Asquith of Bishopstone and Lady Asquith; Mr. E. J. Bunting, Official Secretary at Australia House; the Right Hon. Clement Attlee; the Ven. Archdeacon O. H. Gibbs Smith and Mrs. Gibbs Smith; the Right Hon. H. U. Willink, Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge; the Right Hon. the Chairman of the London County Council (Mrs. Douglas Bolton); Sir Alfred Bossom, Bt.; Sir Roderic Hill, Vice-Chancellor, University of London; Sir Harold Emmerson, Secretary, Ministry of Works; Sir Richard Coppock, General Secretary, N.F.B.T.O.; Sir Hugh Cas-



Contrast in city skylines. Top picture: Stalin Avenue, Leningrad. Bottom picture: Sao Paulo, Brazil, a city of 2½ million people which is celebrating its fourth centennial this year.

son, President, The Architectural Association; Mr. Pembroke Wicks, Registrar, A.R.C.U.K.; Mr. Kenneth M. B. Cross, Hon. Secretary, R.I.B.A.; Mr. Thomas E. Scott, Hon. Treasurer, R.I.B.A., and Mrs. Scott; Mr. C. D. Spragg, Secretary, R.I.B.A.

### Visit of French Builders

Very great interest has been taken by the French Building Federation in the Second Report for the Training of General Foremen published in November last, and a delegation from that Federation recently spent four days in London to study the methods of training in this country. The delegation, which arrived on February 16, included members of the French Federation holding National or Regional office and officials of the Federation concerned with education and training.

At their request the first part of the visit was devoted to discussions with representatives of the National Federation, including Mr. D. E. Woodbine Parish and Mr. F. M. Sleeman, the chairmen of the Standing Committee for the Training of General Foremen and of the Education and Training Committee respectively, and to visits to building sites to study the exact nature of the duties performed by a general foreman in this country.

Later the French delegates visited technical colleges which had organized successful courses in general foremanship studies to learn what had been and what was being done to advance the standard of supervisory competence and to meet students at present undergoing training.

The French delegates also had an interesting meeting with the members of the Standing Committee for the Training of General Foremen, at which they were advised of the methods by which candidates for training are selected and how suitable lecturers for these courses are obtained. A visit to the Building Research Station was made on February 19.

In the course of interesting exchanges of views and experience on the whole range of questions relating to the selection and recruitment of craft apprentices and administrative students, it was apparent that many of the problems experienced here in obtaining suitable recruits for certain trades also arise in France perhaps, indeed, in an even more acute degree. The French builders, by their evident interest in all they saw and heard, made it clear that they are vitally concerned to establish the best means of increasing productivity and efficiency by improved supervision.

### Visit to Poland

In 1952 the Polish Society of Architects (S.A.R.P.) invited 50 architects from 20 different countries as guests to Warsaw on the occasion of the opening of Marszalkowska Square, the central civic feature in Warsaw's reconstruction programme. From Britain went Max Lock, David and Mary Medd and Graeme Shankland. This gathering of architects and town planners represented widely differing technical, aesthetic and political opinions. Such was the value of the interchange of ideas between East and West that it was unanimously decided to repeat the experience at a later date, keeping it on an informal and individual basis, giving it no name and setting up no organization apart from that of the voluntary services of those offering hospitality. A small Committee of Initiative was appointed from among the company, which comprises: Joseph Sigalen, of Poland; Professor Luigi Piccinato, of Italy; André Lurcat, of France; and Max Lock, from Great Britain.

After two meetings in Paris it has now been decided to hold the second conference from May 30 to June 10, 1954, in Poland again at the invitation of the Polish Society of Architects, but this time to enlarge the meeting to include more students of architecture and town planning, members of housing committees and officials and directors of housing organizations. It is hoped that up to 25 persons from Great Britain will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to visit Poland to take part in a two-day conference and six-day tour of works of reconstruction there. The subjects for general discussion at the conference are to be:—

1. Reconstruction of bombed cities.
2. Reconditioning of existing towns.
3. Building new towns.

Those visiting Poland are expected to pay their own return fares to Warsaw (if by air) or to the border (if by other means of transport). Group travel would probably result in a reduction. In addition, there would be three days' hotel expenses for the first two days of the conference in Warsaw and the last day in Warsaw. This works out at \$6, about 43s per day, which includes all meals, hotel accommodation, public transport and normal out-of-pocket expenses.

The S.A.R.P. have generously offered to pay all expenses for the six-day tour of reconstruction works in Poland. It is hoped that next year a similar arrangement will take place in Denmark.

Those wishing to join the British party going to Poland on May 30 should write at once to: Max Lock, F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., 7, Victoria Square, London, S.W.1.

### Appointment of Mr. R. J. Allerton

At its meeting on Feb 16 the L.C.C. agreed unanimously that Mr. R. J. Allerton, at present Housing Manager, City of Birmingham, should be appointed Director of Housing at a salary of £3,000 a year as from a date to be arranged. One hundred and thirteen applications for the appointment were received.

Last November, the Council agreed that as from April 1, 1954, two separate departments—a Housing Management Department and a Valuation Department—be set up in place of the present Housing and Valuation Department. It was also

decided that responsibility for the Council's programme of out-county cottage estates work and for substantial schemes for modernizing old dwellings should be allocated to the Council's Architect.

Seeing that the number of the Council's dwellings had risen to some 170,000, and was increasing by more than 9,000 every year the Council considered that the functions of advising on housing policy, and of managing and maintaining this immense and growing group of properties were so onerous as to require the undivided attention of one chief officer and that the heavy responsibility of acting as valuer and estate agent for all services of the Council should be separately provided for.

The present Director of Housing and Valuer—a position held by Mr. Cyril H. Walker, who retires on March 31, discharges two functions—one as the Council's Chief Officer for housing work, and the other as Valuer and Estate Agent.

Under the new arrangements the Director of Housing with a staff of some 6,600 will be responsible for giving advice on housing policy in general and assessment of housing need; the management, including lettings, rent collection and maintenance, of over 200 housing estates; a direct labour scheme for the erection of up to 300 dwellings a year and the modernization of old dwellings; and control of development entrusted to private architects.

Mr. Allerton is 55 years of age. He is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, a Fellow and Past President of the Institute of Housing, an Associate Member of the Institute of Municipal Engineers and a Registered Architect.



The party of French builders on a visit to this country.

### COMING EVENTS

#### The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

March 1 at 5.30 p.m. Ordinary General Meeting. Talk on "Land Use and the Life of Buildings," by J. F. Q. Switzer, M.A., A.R.I.C.S., at 12, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

#### The Housing Centre

March 2 at 1.15 p.m. Talk on "Housing in Northern Ireland," by Dame Dehra Parker, P.C., Minister of Health and Local Government, Northern Ireland, at 13, Suffolk Street, Haymarket, S.W.1.

#### Royal Institute of British Architects

March 2 at 6 p.m. Talk on "English Villas and Venetian Decorators," by F. J. Watson, F.S.A., at 66, Portland Place, W.1.

#### Town Planning Institute

March 4. Annual Dinner at the Dorchester.

#### The Institute of Quantity Surveyors

March 5, at 6 p.m. Annual Dinner and Dance at the Trocadero Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus.



## IN PARLIAMENT

### Rebuilding in the City

The intentions of the Minister of Works about rebuilding in the City of London were expressed in greater detail in a reply he gave on Feb. 16. Sir Alfred Bosson asked him to state the size of the programme for office rebuilding, and the principles on which he selected projects for inclusion. Sir David Eccles stated:—

I propose to licence sufficient buildings in the City to reach and maintain a balanced output of about £1 million of work a month. On present indications we should achieve this figure towards the end of this year or early in 1955. The programme will be kept at this level by issuing batches of licences from time to time, and I hope to give to the developers concerned advance notice of the intention to issue a licence.

There are two main classes of applications for licences: those for concerns who are engaged on work of outstanding importance and need new offices, and those where the offices will be built for general letting. The latter can only be satisfactorily selected on planning grounds, and I have asked the City Corporation to suggest priorities to me. I have told the Corporation that I will issue licences by areas if that will help to achieve coherent design and development.

### No Committee on Plumbing

Mr. Llewellyn, who represents North Cardiff, suggested to the Minister of Housing and Local Government that he should appoint a committee to investigate and report on methods of minimizing the effects of very cold weather on houses in general and their plumbing in particular. He added a specific complaint that some new Council houses in Glamorgan were insufficiently protected against frost. Mr. Marples, the Parliamentary Secretary, said on the general question that the Minister did not think it necessary to appoint a committee, as he was advised that the recommendations in the *Housing Manuals* and their technical appendices would provide adequate protection if properly applied. On the Glamorgan complaint, he added that the Minister knew that some houses had been affected, and had asked for a report on these and on a representative cross-section of council houses generally (Feb. 16).

### Carlton House Site

Mr. Stokes asked the Minister of Agriculture (who answers in Parliament for the Commissioners of Crown Lands), on what basis of cost it was decided to make use of the Carlton House Terrace site as the new Foreign Office rather than have it developed as a commercial site for residential flats, hotels and offices, it being

assumed the Nash front would not be materially altered in either case. Sir Thomas Dugdale stated that no final plans had yet been submitted to the Commissioners of Crown Lands. He added that under the County of London Development Plan the intention was that buildings in this area should be reserved for Governmental or institutional use. (Feb. 18).

### Ministry Planning Service

Mr. Renton asked the Minister of Housing and Local Government what would be the cost during the current financial year of the planning services of his department, including those of regional offices. Mr. Macmillan informed him that the cost of the planning services to be met out of the Department's Vote was estimated at £783,000 and a further £656,000 for grants to local authorities. (Feb. 16).

### Strategic Stocks Necessary

Mr. Baldwin asked the Minister of State, Board of Trade, as representing the Minister of Materials, how far it was still necessary to maintain strategic stocks of timber, which entailed considerable cost in rentals, supervision and wastage, in view of the fact that timber traders were now in a position to purchase an ample supply of timber as required. Mr. Heathcoat Amory replied that in the view of the Government it was still necessary to maintain a strategic stock of timber in addition to the stocks held by the trade. (Feb. 15).

### Tidiness in the Parks

The Minister of Works has taken a novel step in his latest move to secure tidiness in the London parks by including in an advisory committee two young people, to be nominated by the London Federation of Boys' Clubs and the London Union of Mixed Clubs and Girls Clubs. The other members of the committee are—Mr. John Rodgers, M.P. (Conservative) who is chairman, Mr. Michael Stewart, M.P. (Labour), the Dowager Marchioness of Reading, chairman of the W.V.S., Mr. John Brown, education officer to the L.C.C., Sir Robert Fraser, director-general of the Central Office of Information, and Mr. F. C. Hooper, managing director of Schweppes, Ltd. The Minister has appointed this committee to advise him on ways of encouraging the public to keep the royal parks tidy and free from litter, and to suggest any improvements that the Ministry might introduce for this purpose (Feb. 16).

### Repairs and Rents Bill

The Government have applied their sharpest spur to the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill, which they clearly intend to get through the Commons before Easter. It has been with a stand-

ing committee since Jan. 21, and after seven meetings the committee were still subjecting to scrutiny Clause 5, with the remaining 39 clauses and five schedules stretching down the vista of the session. Mr. Macmillan shook the reins on Feb. 16 with a demand that the committee should meet three mornings a week instead of two. On Feb. 18 the spur was applied vigorously. Mr. Crookshank, Leader of the House, began the statement of the following week's business with the announcement of a time-table for the remainder of the Bill in committee. This has caused a lot of noise and fury. The committee are required to complete their labours by March 18, and after that two days are provided for the report stage and one for the third reading. So far the committee are midway down what is relatively speaking the "straight" of slum reconditioning. The ditches and hurdles of repair allowances and rent increases have still to be met.

\* \* \*

### Brains Trust on Timber Preservation

By permission of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects a Brains Trust on Timber Preservation is to be held at 7 p.m. on March 24 in the Henry Jarvis Memorial Hall, R.I.B.A., 66, Portland Place, London, W.1.

The Chair will be taken by Mr. C. S. White, F.R.I.B.A., a vice-president of the Association and the members of the Trust will be Messrs. E. H. B. Boulton, B. A. Jay, E. H. Nevard, S. A. Richardson and F. M. Potter. Mr. W. E. Bruce will act as Question Master.

Admission is free by ticket on application from British Wood Preserving Association, 6, Southampton Place, London, W.C.1.

### EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition of "Post-War Buildings Planned by Scottish Architects" will be opened to-morrow, February 26, at the Scottish Building Centre, 425, Sauchiehall St., Glasgow, at 2.30 p.m. by Sir William O. Hutchison, H.R.A., R.P., P.R.S.A. Mr. Leslie Grahame MacDougall, R.S.A., F.R.I.A.S., F.R.I.B.A., in the chair.

The R.I.B.A. Travelling Exhibition "Home and Surroundings," will be shown at: Messrs. Elliston & Cavell, Magdalen St., Oxford, from Feb. 24-March 10; at the Public Library, Victoria Rd., High Wycombe, from March 15-27, and at The College of Art, Green Lane, Derby, from March 18-31.

An exhibition called "Glass in the Home" designed to show how glass can be used in the building and decoration of the modern house, will be shown at The Building Centre, Store St., London, W.C.1, from March 5-27, 9.30 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sats. 9.30-1 p.m.).





## **Extensions to Southall Technical College, Mx.**

ARCHITECT: ALISTER MacDONALD, F.R.I.B.A.

in collaboration with

C. G. STILLMAN, F.R.I.B.A., County Architect

Quantity Surveyors: Young & Brown

### **Contract**

Site clearance work was started in November, 1949, and the buildings were finally completed and equipped in 1953. Local authority form of contract was used, based on a schedule of rates. Cost about £175,000.

### **Site**

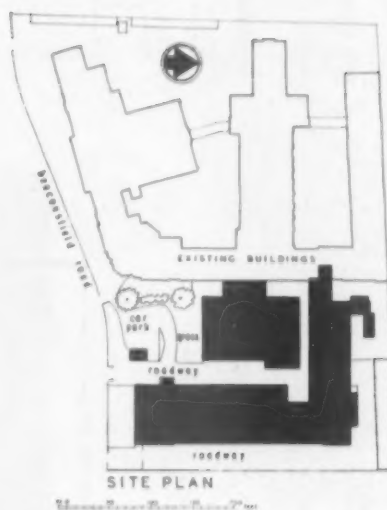
The existing Technical College had been extended before the war, and, due to the build-up of the surrounding area, the land available to cater for a considerable further expansion in post-war activities was very limited. The site consisted of a rectangular piece of land with its shorter end fronting to Beaconsfield Road, which had been used for wartime air-raid shelters and allotments. Before building operations could start, a considerable amount of site clearance and levelling was necessary.

The amount of new accommodation required, and the way in which this was to be linked at various points with the existing Technical College, made it necessary to cover the greater part of the site with buildings and to rise to greater height than the existing two-storey construction.

### **Planning**

The extensions provide additional teaching accommodation, laboratories and drawing offices for specialist departments, a new dining hall and kitchens, and a boiler room, not only to serve the extensions but to boost the heating services in the older buildings. The College provides technical training principally in electrical and mechanical engineering, with particular reference to the requirements of local industries.

An intricate network of services was necessary to cater for the specialized equipment and several large working engines which were to be installed; main power and gas service in-



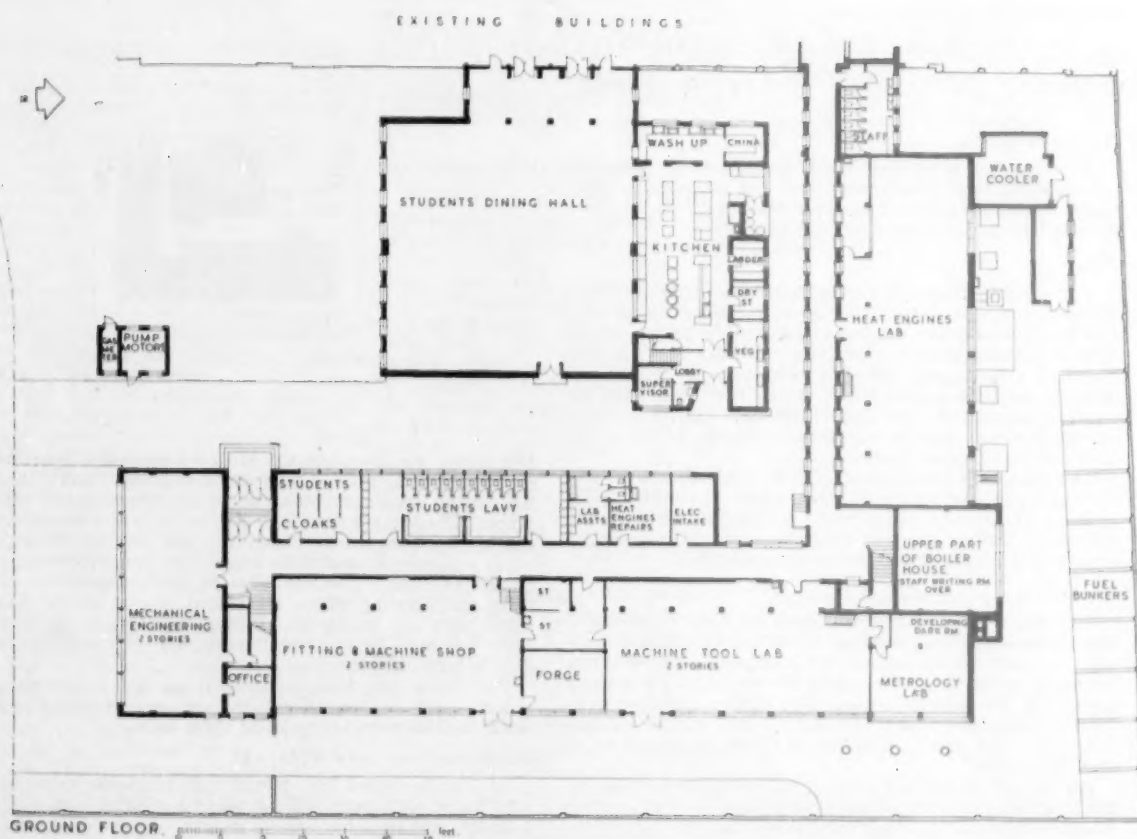
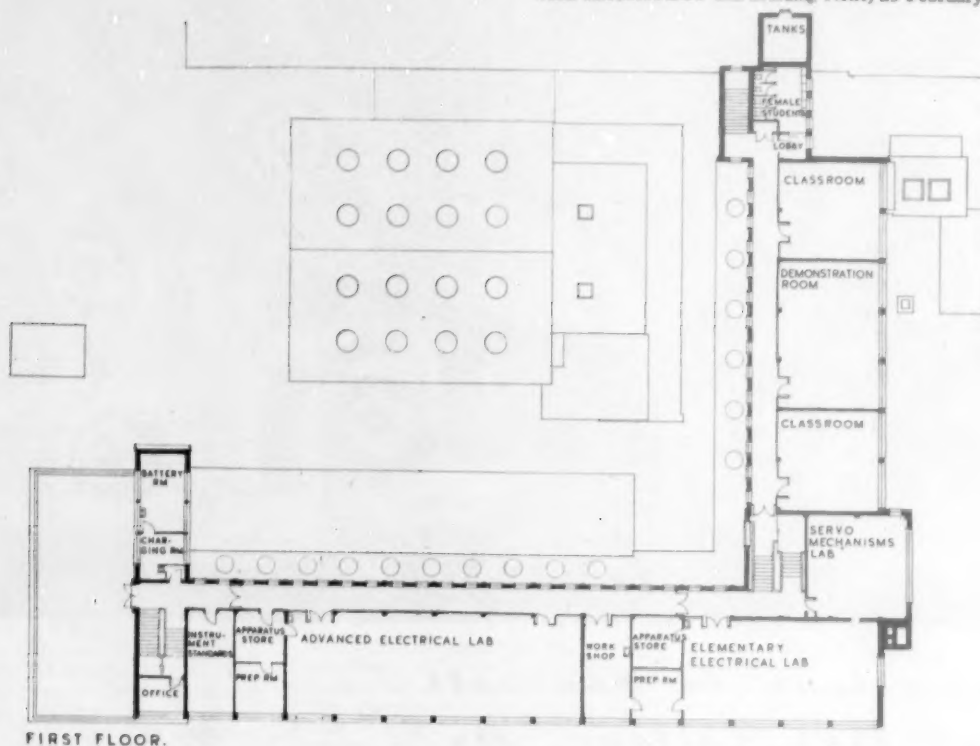
take rooms are placed on the ground floor and a large duct runs beneath the ground floor corridor in two "arms" from the central basement boiler room to accommodate main pipes. The ground floor was planned to house mechanical engineering laboratories (containing the principal items of heavy equipment), and these rooms rise in parts through a mezzanine floor. The Electrical Section occupies the first floor, and drawing offices are placed on the second floor, where they can be top-lit. Bilateral lighting to the lower floors has been obtained by "staggering" the access corridors in sectional planning.

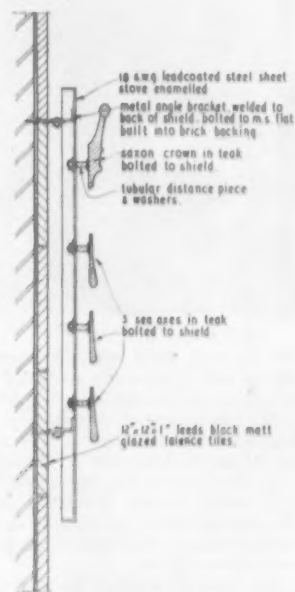
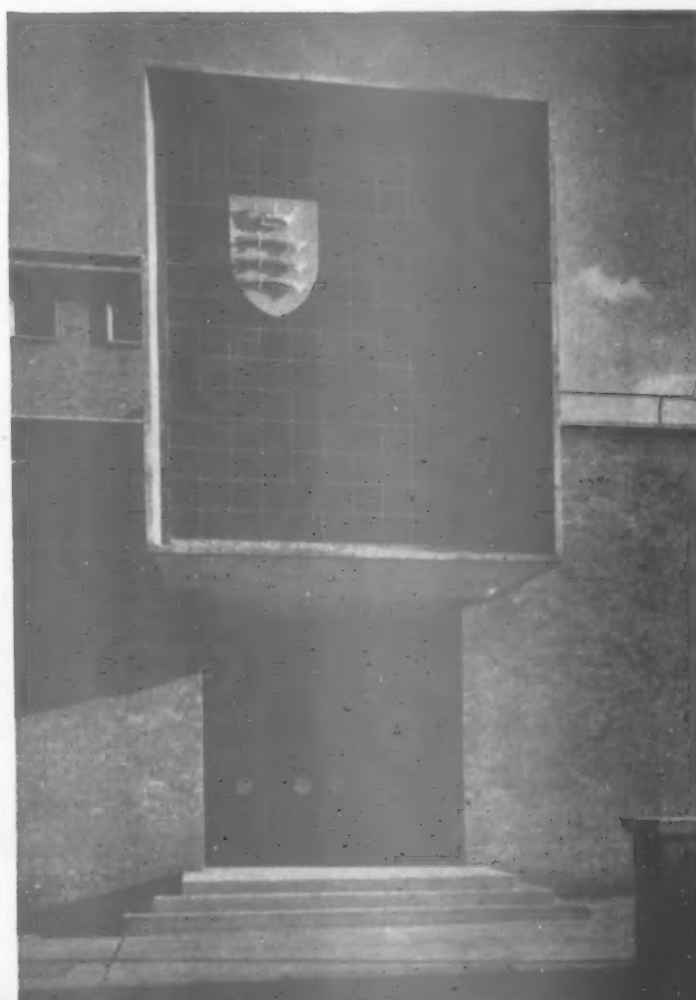
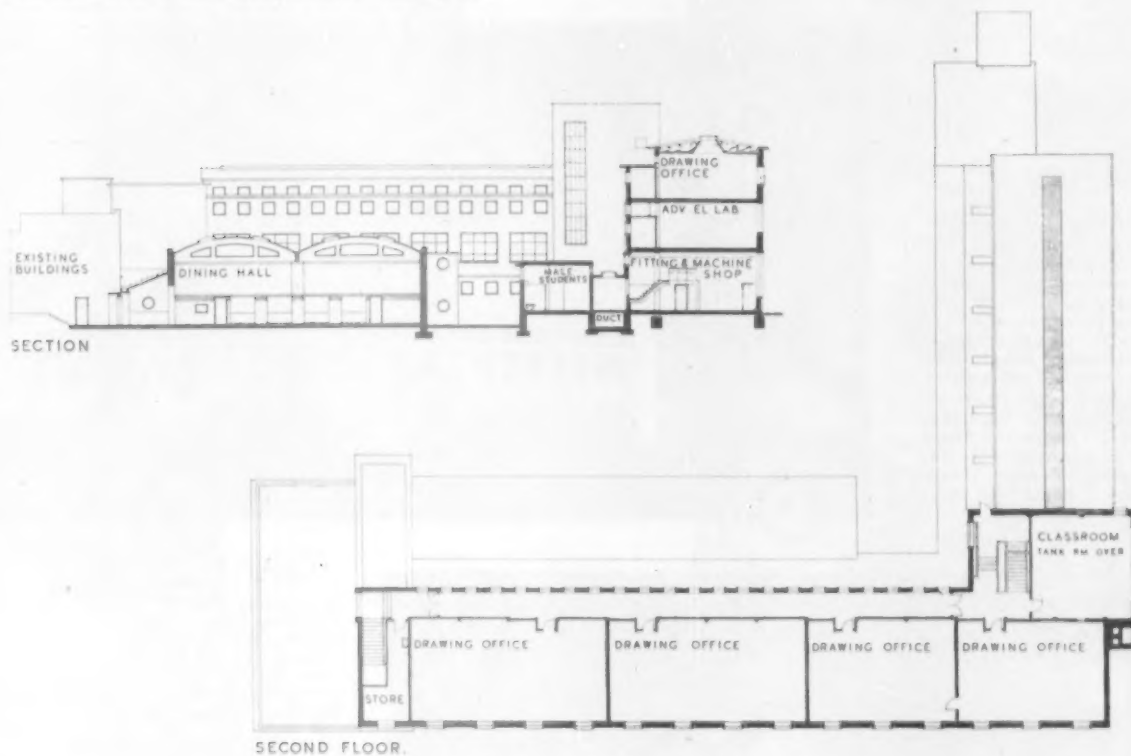
The dining hall, with kitchens behind, is centrally placed and designed to contrast with the regular higher and rectangular buildings enclosing it on three sides.

### **Construction and Finishes**

(a) The L-shaped three-storey main block has an encased steel frame, with panel walls consisting of brickwork facing, a cavity, and an inner skin of breeze. In the laboratories

(Continued on page 224)





Section through shield

**Main Entrance :** The doors are of mahogany with anodized aluminium handles. The heraldic shield projects from a background of black ceramic tiles.

Right: View from S.E., with the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory in foreground. The projecting gantry beam enables heavy equipment to be electrically hoisted from a lorry into the building.

Below: Detail of the south wall of the Dining Hall. Beneath a brick wall patterned with projecting headers, light blue ceramic tiles have been used.



#### GENERAL CONTRACTORS: Walter Lawrence & Son, Ltd.

Anti-Vibration Mats: W. Christie & Grey, Ltd.  
Asphalting: General Asphalt Co., Ltd. Cellotex  
Ceiling: Horace W. Cullum & Co., Ltd. Cork  
Tiles: Mundet Cork Co., Ltd. Corridor Lights:  
Lencroft, Ltd. Dome Lights and Door Frames:  
Henry Hope & Sons, Ltd. Electrical Fittings:  
Troughton & Young, Ltd. Electrical Installation:  
T. C. Clarke & Co., Ltd. Extract Ducts:  
Thomas F. Headland, Ltd. Extract Fans: Air  
Vent Heater Co. Fixed Cellotex: Horyburgh,  
Ltd. Gantry: Patterson Hughes Engineering Co.,  
Ltd. Gas Fitting: North Thames Gas Board.  
Glass Roof: W. H. Heywood & Co., Ltd.  
Heaters: Radiation, Ltd. Heating Installation:  
Stinson White & Co., Ltd. Insulation Board:  
Sundale Board Co., Ltd. Ironmongery: Locker-  
bie & Wilkinson, Ltd. Kitchen Equipment:  
Benham & Sons, Ltd. Kitchel Parnall & Co.,  
Ltd.; Hobart Manufacturing Co., Ltd.; Pressed  
Steel Co., Ltd. Laying to Hot Well: Bells  
Asbestos & Engineering Supplies Co., Ltd.  
Lettering to Doors: Butler Jones, Ltd. M.C.C.  
Shield (Main Entrance): David Bdale & Co.  
Ltd. Metal Balustrades: S. W. Farmer & Son,  
Ltd. Plastics: Denny Mott & Dickson, Ltd.  
Precast Prestressed Floors: Millbank Floors, Ltd.  
Pumping Equipment: Burn Bros., Ltd. Roller  
Shutters: Fireproof Shutter & Door Co., Ltd.  
(Metal): Adam Ltd. (Wood) (to Servery). Roof  
Trusses: Roberts Adlard & Co., Ltd. Reinforce-  
ment to Barrel Vaults: Twistell Reinforcement,  
Ltd. Sanitary Fittings: W. N. Froy & Sons, Ltd.  
Semi-circular Tiles: Pilkington's Asphalt Co., Ltd.  
Slate Gills: Bow Slate & Enamel Co., Ltd. Steel  
Frame: Banister Walton & Co., Ltd. Sump  
Pump: Broadwall Engineering Co., Ltd. Tiles:  
E. J. Elgood, Ltd. Tiling: Carter & Kernahan,  
Ltd. Waterproofing: Evode Chemical Works,  
Ltd. W.C. Partitions: Venests, Ltd. Windows:  
Williams & Williams, Ltd. Wood Block Floor-  
ing: Stevens & Adams, Ltd.

the internal walls are fair-faced "gaults," whilst drawing offices and classrooms are lined with  $\frac{1}{2}$ in insulation board, decorated in colours from the Munsell range.

(b) Floors are of precast and prestressed concrete units, finished with wood block, cork tiles and thermoplastic tiles, according to use; stairs are finished in granolithic.

(c) Roofs over the main blocks are carried on standard light metal trusses providing even-controlled top lighting. The dining hall is spanned by two reinforced concrete barrel vaults having a thickness of 3in in the middle, and perforated with dome lights.

(d) External finishes are in a variety of coloured and patterned brickwork. The south wall of the dining hall is faced with blue tiles to window head level and the brickwork above is patterned with projecting headers. Over the main entrance there is a panel of black tiles, forming a background to the County of Middlesex Arms set in a shield in heraldic colours.

(e) A pumping plant raises effluent from the building to the level of the main drain in Beaconsfield Road. The plant house is combined with gas meters in the forecourt.

The Dining Hall has a clear floor space of 60ft x 60ft. The ceiling is lined with acoustic tiling and insulation board; walls are faced in laminated plastic sheeting.



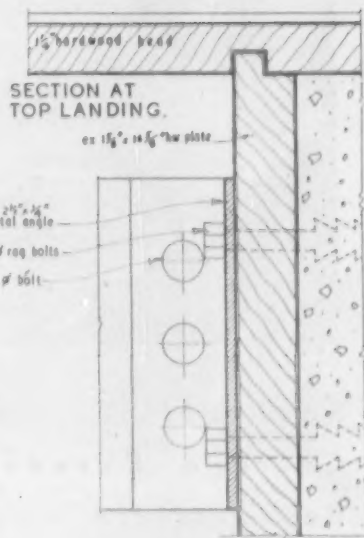
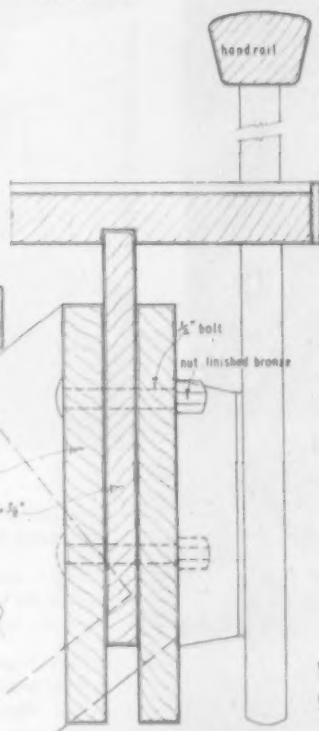
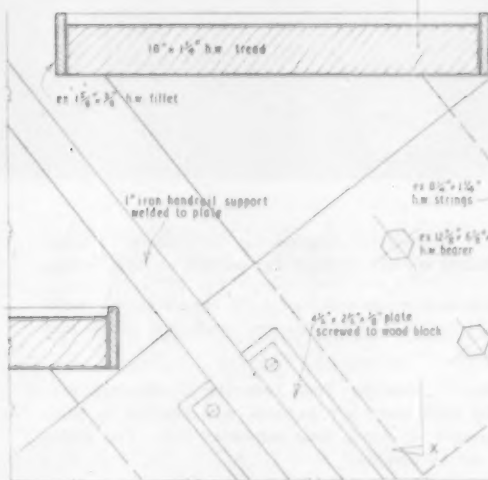
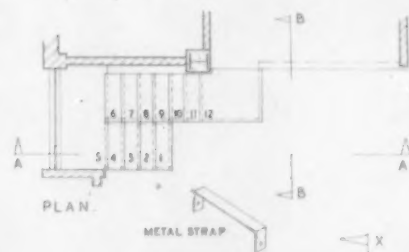
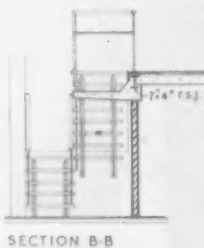
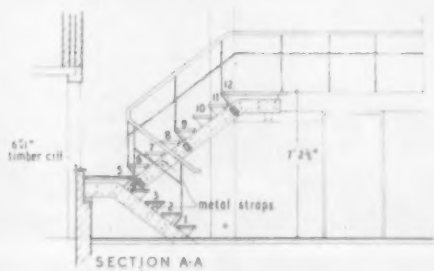




Access Stair from Fitting and Machine Shop to office and store on mezzanine level. The double strings are 8in x 1in Iroko hardwood. Details below.

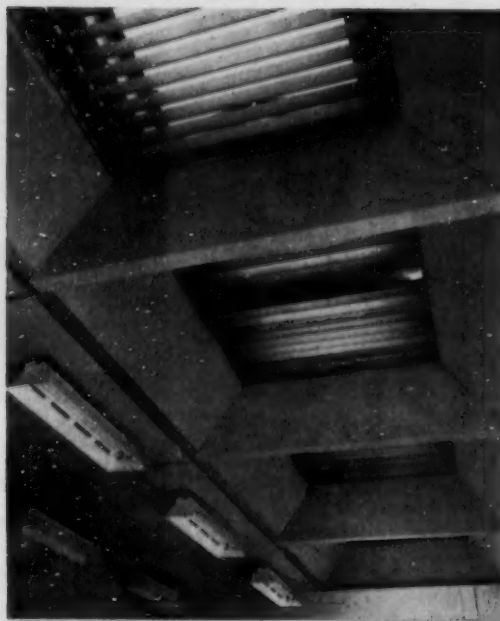


The North Stair. Flights are free-standing with reinforced concrete structure clearly expressed.





Above: Heat Engines Laboratory. Double glazing and acoustic tiled ceiling insulate against sound transmission; the floor is of heavy duty industrial tiles. A students' gallery runs the length of the laboratory on the right in the picture. Below: Skylight in drawing office. The Louvres are adjustable (cord-operated).



**Southall Technical  
College Extensions,  
Beaconsfield Rd., Southall**

ARCHITECT:

ALISTER MacDONALD, F.R.I.B.A.

Top picture: Mechanical Engineering Laboratory. Precast prestressed beams are left exposed and painted to form ceiling.

Middle: Classroom on second floor. To reduce sound transmission the floor is of cork tiles, and walls are faced with insulation board.

Bottom picture: Machine Tool Laboratory. Precast prestressed beams have been left exposed and painted to form ceiling. Flooring is of heavy duty industrial tiles. The entire glazed area can be opened.



## SEASIDE HOLIDAY CAMP, CESENATICO

**T**HIS holiday camp on the Adriatic was put up by an industrialist, G. Redaelli, for the children of his employees. The south block was rebuilt on the site of a pre-war camp and includes common room, visitors' room, boys' showers, etc. The side facing the beach has a wide overhang to provide shade during children's afternoon rest period. The north block houses administration.

There are four dormitories on the first floor reached by two ramps. Two hold 36 beds each and two 76 beds each. The children are segregated according to age groups.

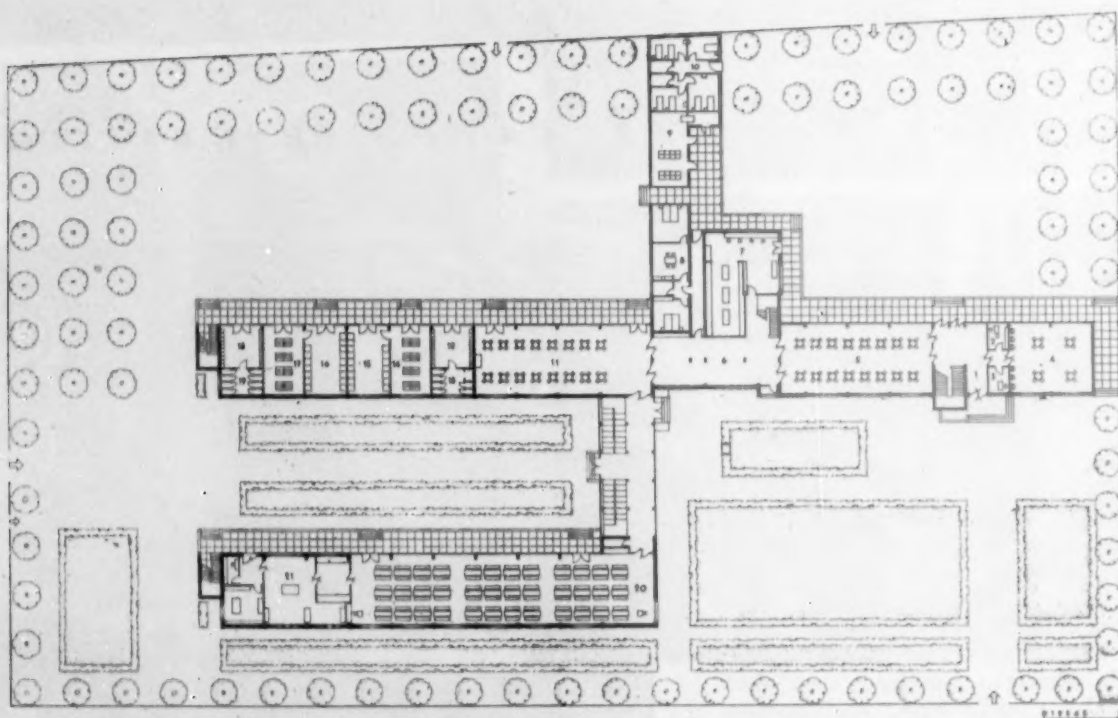
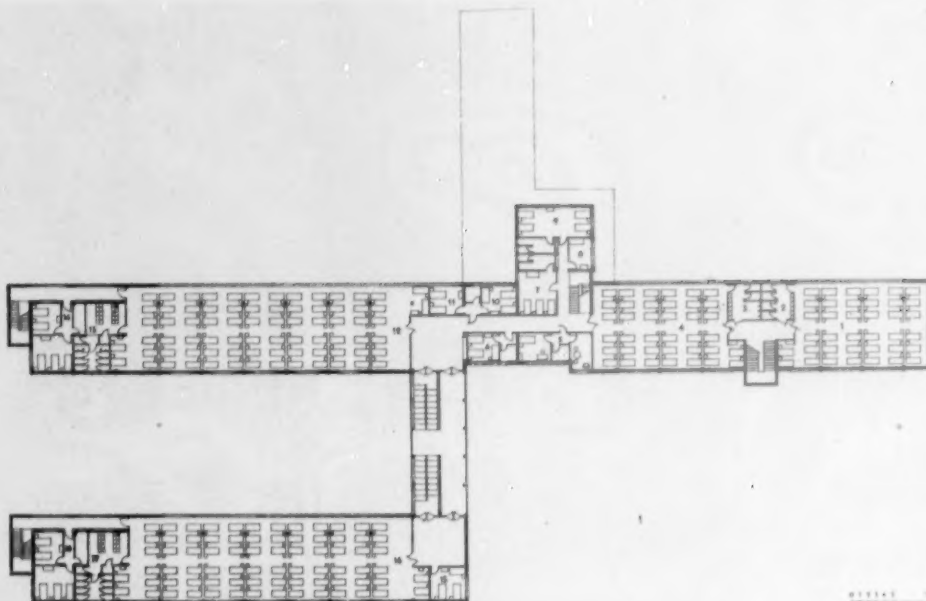
The director, or more properly matron, has her quarters in the centre block, which also has a medical room. Accommodation in common rooms allows 26.36 square feet per child and 15 square feet per child in the dining hall. The camp is constructed of brick and stone with flat roof finished with asphalt. Interior decoration is in bright colours.

ARCHITECT: GRIFFINI



**FIRST FLOOR**

- 1-4: INFANTS' DORMITORY.  
 2-3: LAVS. & W.C.s.  
 5: MATRON.  
 7-9: INFIRMARY.  
 8: MEDICAL  
 10-11: STAFF ROOMS.  
 12-16: GIRLS' & BOYS' DORMITORIES.  
 13-17: LAVATORIES  
 14-18: SERVANTS' QUARTERS.

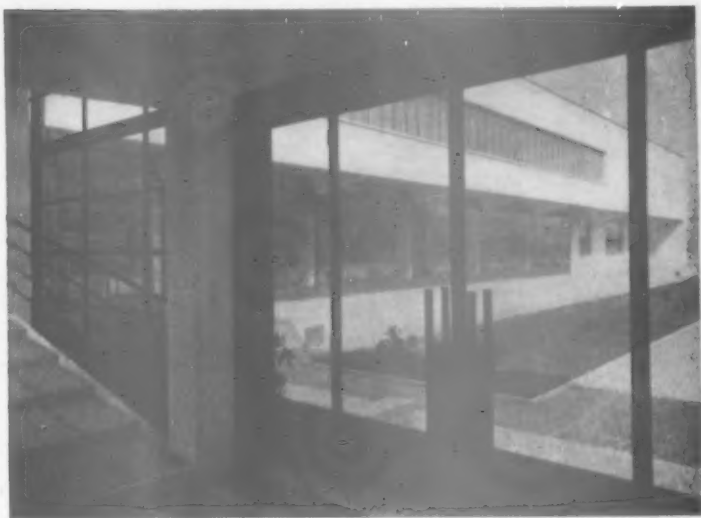
**GROUND FLOOR**

- 1: MAIN ENTRANCE. 2: ENQUIRIES. 3: PORTER. 4, 5 & 11: GAMES ROOMS. 6: HALL. 7: LAUNDRY. 8: PORTER'S FLAT.  
 9: DISINFECTION. 10: QUIET ROOM. 12-18: LAVATORIES. 13-19: W.C.s. 14-17: CHANGING ROOMS. 20: REFECTORY. 21: KITCHEN.

Scale in metres

**Seaside Holiday Camp at Cesenatico,**





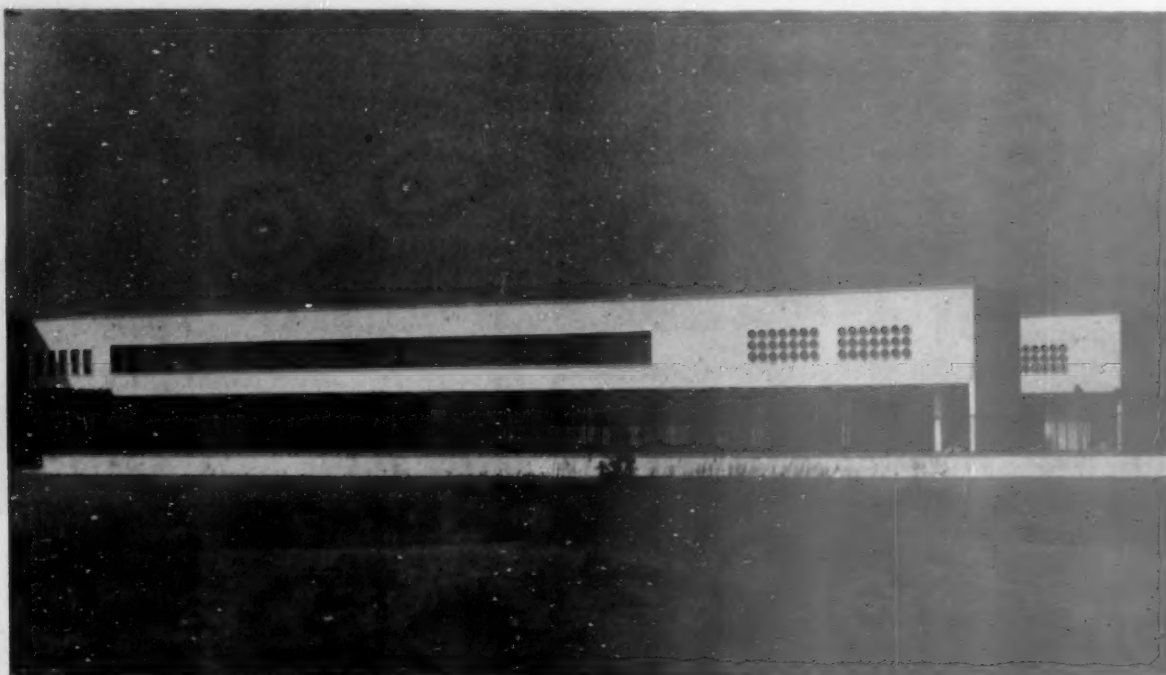
"Horse ramps" to first floor; another view below. It would be interesting to know if these work.



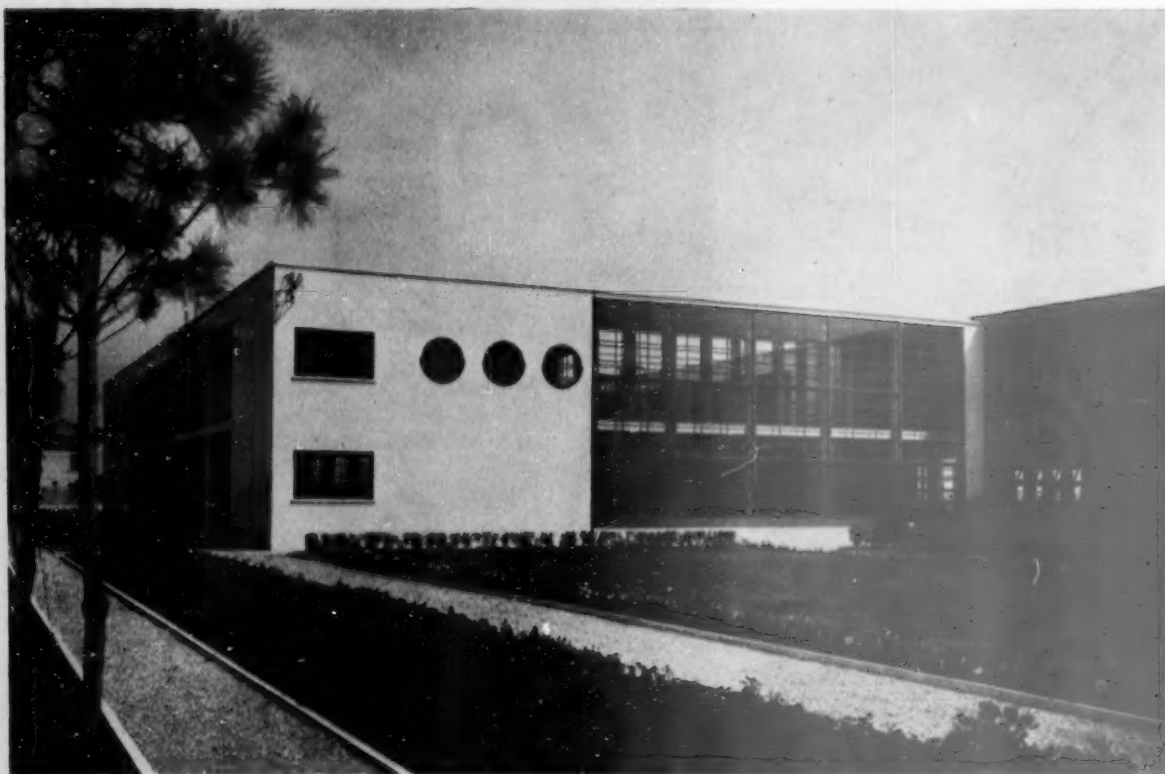
View at night into Refectory, and projecting eaves to give shade.



Italy



*General view showing overhang to give shade for siesta.*



*Refectory with dormitories over. The approach ramps can be seen through the glazed wall.*

SEASIDE HOLIDAY CAMP.

ARCHITECT: GRIFFINI

## CORRESPONDENCE

## Dublin Competition

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—With reference to your comment upon the result of the recent competition for the Dublin Port and Docks Board Building, it may be interesting to recall that the International Jury appointed to assess the competition for the League of Nations Building at Geneva in 1927 were also unable to recommend a design for acceptance. An extract from the Award states:—

"The Jury unanimously decided that the results of the competition did not justify it in recommending any one of the plans for execution."

This competition attracted 377 designs from architects all over the world, and the English representative on the jury of nine distinguished assessors was the late Sir John Burnet.

The prize money was distributed amongst 36 of the competitors, and the building was eventually carried out on another site to a design prepared by four of the competitors who were eventually commissioned for the work.

I am, etc.,

S. W. MILBURN.

## Imhofs Shop

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—Although in your pages you have not gone to the extreme attained by a monthly contemporary, you have given so much space to the remodelling of Imhofs shop that we are led to conclude that it is intended to illustrate a significant trend in modern design. Hence our presumption in making the following comments.

We would be the first to concede that a shop should be truly contemporary, stimulating and alive. This one is all these things, and the lettering and white glazed reveals have given the exterior an arresting character particularly appropriate to its setting in a rather sombre street. But it is not a background for goods. On the many occasions that we have looked in, they have been hard to see amidst the architectural exuberance.

It is a well-worn idea to open up the shop interior for display. In some trades it has proved a "good thing," but we have been reliably informed by a progressive shop-keeper that in most trades it is considered of doubtful value. The reasons are twofold: (1) The potential customer cannot stare in the window without the shop personnel watching him. (When we stared in this window three salesmen out-stared us and we beat a retreat!) (2) You cannot go in and make a selection of what you require without being watched from without. Admittedly, London is an impersonal place, but still the arguments hold and in smaller towns these are forceful objections. It is on such small psychological factors that the

success or otherwise of shops so often depends.

We agree that the large mirror "quite simply helps to enlarge the restricted area available for the shop" but it adds its quota to the confusion of light fittings, plants and crazy paving which together captivate the attention at the expense of the true exhibits.

Finally, the lighting scheme does "avoid the 'dead' look inappropriate to shop lighting" but only by something even more inappropriate. Fundamentally, we think, the essentials of shop lighting are: (1) Background lighting of as low an intensity as comparison with neighbouring shops will permit. (2) Medium lighting over counters. (3) Brilliant light on a few special displays.

Perhaps the designers will have second thoughts before the remainder of the shop is similarly equipped as threatened. Otherwise it will be difficult to see the trees for the lights!

We are, etc.,

BRYAN AND NORMAN WESTWOOD.

## Glass in Our Cold Climate

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—“Maintenance Surveyor’s” remarks in this week’s *Architect & Building News* are very true (thinking of the recent cold spell!) as regards our glass-walled structures of to-day, that are so costly to heat; but it’s “the fashion,” and we must suffer the cold like Spartans or pay the large heating costs, for the pleasure of being in the fashion! We not only have to heat the inside of the building but, owing to the extensive amount of glass we are heating the outside air as well, which makes it a very costly matter indeed.

Oscar Wilde once said, “Fashion is that by which the fantastic becomes for the moment universal”(!)

I am, etc.,

A. NEVILLE HOLT.

Post-Graduate Course—  
Birmingham School of  
Architecture

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—I am offering my profuse apologies for a serious omission in my report about the above. It concerns the lecture by Mr. Maurice Lee from the Ministry of Education about the applications of prestressing for the construction of schools. These represent the first large-scale experiment in this method employing specially designed pre-cast prestressed members.

It is difficult to do justice to this lecture without referring to and actually showing the numerous colour slides and working drawings Mr. Lee brought along, particularly of the Wokingham experiment.

I am, etc.,

H. WERNER ROSENTHAL.

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—We were not instrumental in the drawing-up of any of the recommendations incorporated in the Building Digests 48 and 49, and which form the basis of the new Code of Practice CP 304 (1953)—*Soil and Waste Pipes Above Ground*. In your February 11th issue your contributor H. W. R. says that we were.

Those happily unbiased publications are the work of men we know, admire and respect. We know them because they have helped us. We admire the thoroughness with which they make their tests. We respect the opinions they have formed. If they have learnt anything from us at all, it is only that we are eager to supply products and schemes that come up to their standards.

Certain of our experimental work has duplicated, or even anticipated, some of the Building Research Station tests and announcements, but we honestly believe that that is only because the scientists there are obliged to take more time and care in the preparation of written or spoken advice, which carries official weight.

When we by experiment find a better way of draining something we can give the architect our scheme without fear of misinterpretation. We are dealing with particular cases of trap design and manufacture of multi-branch fittings for one-pipe or single-stack plumbing. To generalize, as the Building Research Station scientists must, is a more difficult matter, and the fair way in which they do it should be more generally recognized and appreciated.

I am, etc.,

HUGH GOLDR

Econa Modern Products, Ltd.

## Dover Competition

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—The Royal Fine Art Commission rejected the premiated design because it considered a continuous block of flats along the sea front would be detrimental to amenities, etc.

*Axiom I.* A continuous block of buildings along a sea front is detrimental to amenities.

The County Planning Committee opined that the view of Dover Castle and cliffs from Marine Parade as well as from the sea should be taken into account.

*Axiom II.* In preparing a design the surroundings of a site should be taken into account.

Presumably the promoters were not aware of the first and did not brief the assessor; consequently a great number of architects were misled. It may be presumed that the many architects who competed would be aware of the second!

I am, etc.,

L. H. BUCKNELL.

# ACADEMY CINEMA, Oxford St., London, W.1

CHIEF DESIGNER: ANGUS McBEAN,  
assisted by Peter Pendrey, M.S.I.A.

CONSULTANT ARCHITECT:  
ALISTER MacDONALD, F.R.I.B.A.  
assistant: M. S. MILTON, A.R.I.B.A.

IN contrast to the Academy Exhibition Hall (redesigned for the same client by Alister MacDonald, F.R.I.B.A., and F. H. K. Henion, F.S.I.A., some years ago for the "20,000 years of Modern Art" exhibition in a contemporary manner), the structure of the Cinema did not lend itself to modern treatment when the necessity arose for alterations and complete redecoration.

The period flavour evolved, not from a conscious desire to "restore," but in order to reproduce within the Auditorium an atmosphere of richness and intimacy of the theatre which is in keeping with the policy and specialized appeal of the Academy as opposed to the somewhat impersonal atmosphere of the chain cinema. The opening-up of the foyers creates a greater sense of space within confining walls, and the treatment of entrance as an extension of the pavement arises from box office motives.

The period of the design was chosen because Empire is basically simple; its richness is achieved by the use of gilt mounts. The use of a profusion of applied ornaments in carton pierre would have been impossibly expensive and also—if redesigned—bogus had it not been for the existence of actual period moulds held in stock by the Contractor.

THE NEW CANOPY is scalloped on the underside, tilts upwards and fans outwards from the entrance over Oxford Street. It has been carried out in sheet metal with gilded edging and enrichments and is outlined in gold neon strip. The underside of the canopy is painted deep chartreuse and is illuminated from subdued cold-cathode lights concealed in the false ceiling over the entrance, which repeats the fluted form of the canopy.

The House name is carried in brass cut-out letters against a white coved background which at night is lit from concealed tubes, throwing the lettering into silhouette.

As a departure from normal practice all outer doors to the foyer have been removed and replaced by wrought iron gates spanning the full width of the entrance: during hours of opening these roll back against the walls and throw the outer foyer open to the pavement. "Stills" frames are incorporated in these gates and in the diaper-pattern wrought ironwork covering the white columns of the entrance.

THE OUTER FOYER is designed in English Empire style with a coved fibrous plaster ceiling and cornice papered in gold. The existing wall recesses have been filled in to provide a flush surface and incorporate recessed "still" frames lit from above by tubes, which are ventilated through the cornice.

The walls are covered in green and gold paper down to dado level and panelled below in mahogany veneer with a brass strip pattern.

The Paybox, combined with a Confectionery Kiosk, is of Empire design and stands in the centre of the foyer.

The outer foyer leads through glass doors to the semi-circular INNER FOYER, the facing wall of which is covered in mirror glass to give an illusion of space. The inner foyer walls are otherwise covered in cream and gold flock paper and carpeted in patterned 19th-century design.

From the inner foyer open the doors into the Auditorium.



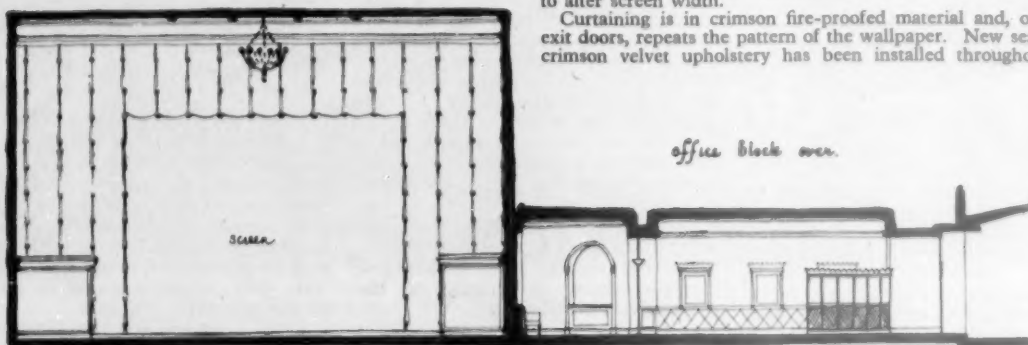
1. Canopy and entrance—right view from Oxford Street.

Within a recess formed by two fibrous plaster Corinthian pilasters, the main staircase rises to the circle; this has the original green marble balustrade and the walls are covered in green and gold paper; soffits are flush and papered in gold.

To achieve a theatrical atmosphere in THE AUDITORIUM, traditional colours of crimson and gold have been used. The walls are hung with a specially designed and hand-blocked wallpaper, simulating curtain drapes. The front of the balcony is gilded. The ceiling is gold with a centrepiece painted sky blue with cloud effects, from which is suspended an antique crystal chandelier.

A proscenium opening with gilded enrichments frames the new screen, which had adjustable masking, electrically operated to alter screen width.

Curtaining is in crimson fire-proofed material and, over the exit doors, repeats the pattern of the wallpaper. New seating in crimson velvet upholstery has been installed throughout and







2. Entrance from the pavement. The gates, which open back into the foyer, are of wrought cast iron painted in black and gold, with still frames incorporated.

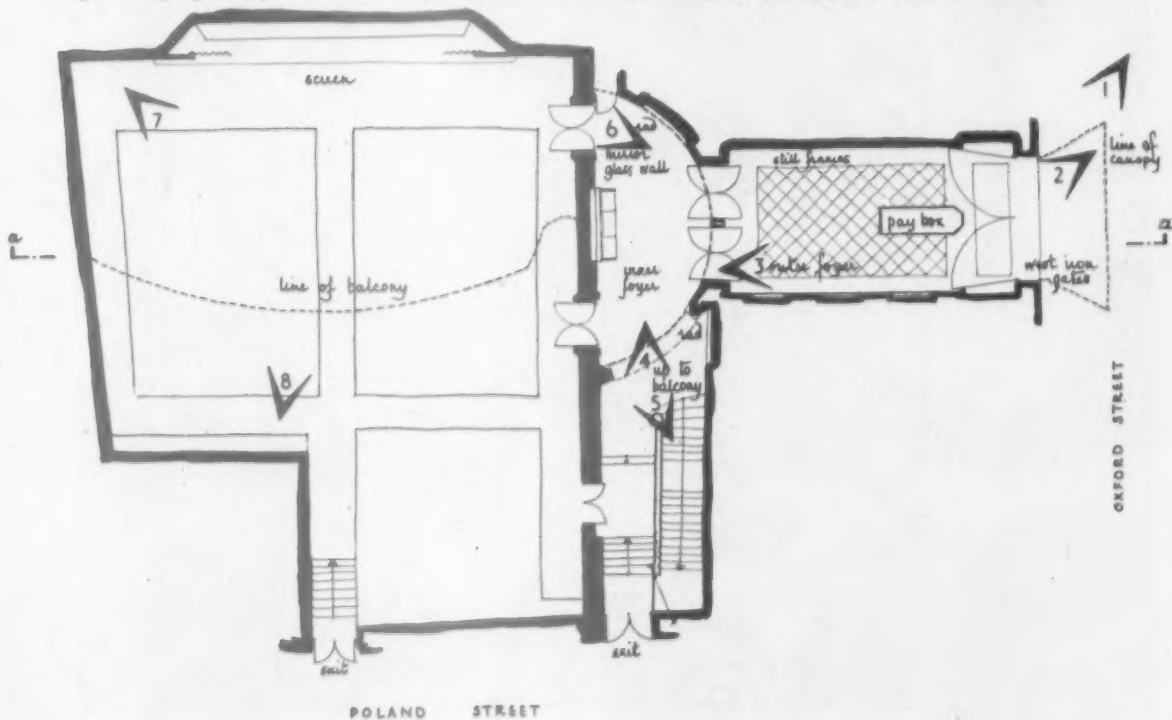
carpeting is in matching colour except in gangways, staircases and circulation areas, where a close-patterned 19th-century design is used.

The doors to the auditorium and the back screen of the circle are padded and covered in plastic hide material, held in position by diagonal brass strips.

Light fittings generally are either antique chandeliers or

specially designed to conform with the period effect.

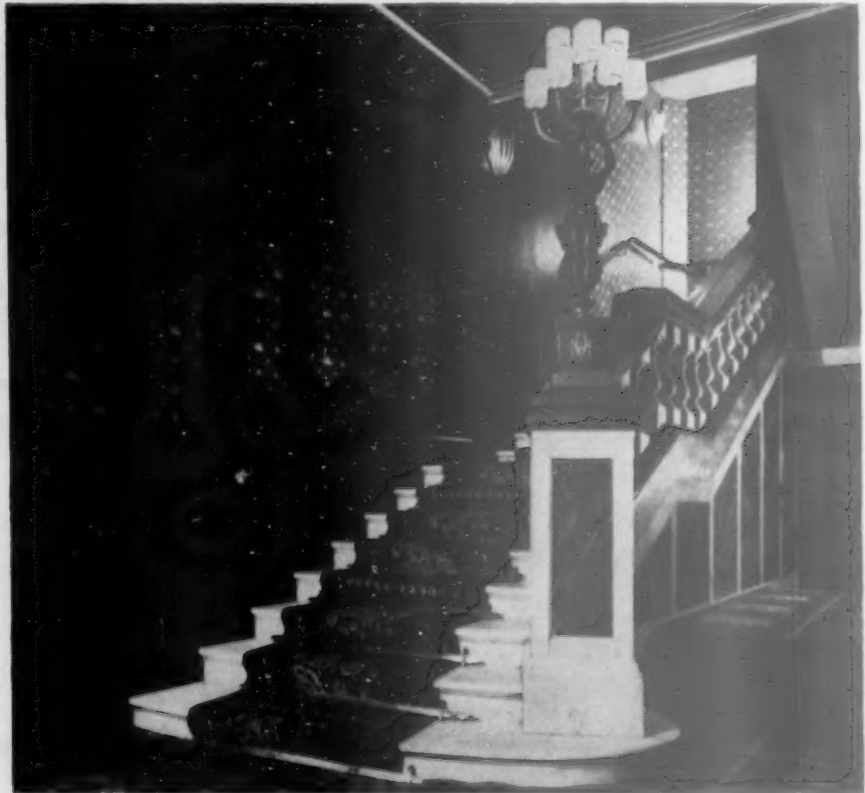
**CONTRACTORS:** F. W. Clifford, Ltd.—general contractors for interior work, canopy and fittings. Strand Electric & Engineering Co., Ltd.—electrical. G. B. Kalee, Ltd.—seating, carpeting, curtains and screen. Young, Austen & Young, Ltd.—heating. Howard Farrow, Ltd.—builders' work. Resilient Tile & Flooring Co. (Ealing), Ltd.—entrance foyer floor.





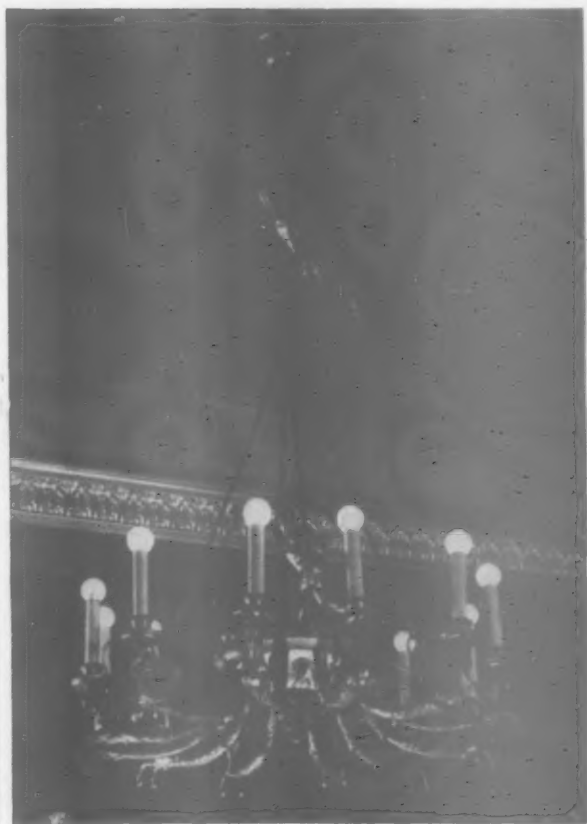
3. Outer foyer showing free-standing combined paybox and kiosk. The coved ceiling is of fibrous plaster covered in gold paper. Walls are papered in green and gold, with recessed "still" frames in mahogany. Dado is of mahogany-veneered plywood with brass-strip diaper. Floor is linoleum.

4. The main staircase in veined green and white marble existed; the candelabra is antique. Walls are covered in dark green paper patterned with gold griffins and stars.





5. Inner foyer, shaving mirror glass wall and padded doors to auditorium. Pilasters are of fibrous plaster and chandelier and settee are antique pieces. The pair of doors from inner foyer to auditorium have brass strip diaper on plastic hide padding. The fan is in plaster and metal with gilded vent grille incorporated. The doorcase is padded and enriched with carton pierre mounts. Below left: Antique carved wood and gilded chandelier in outer foyer, and right: Central crystal chandelier in auditorium—antique.





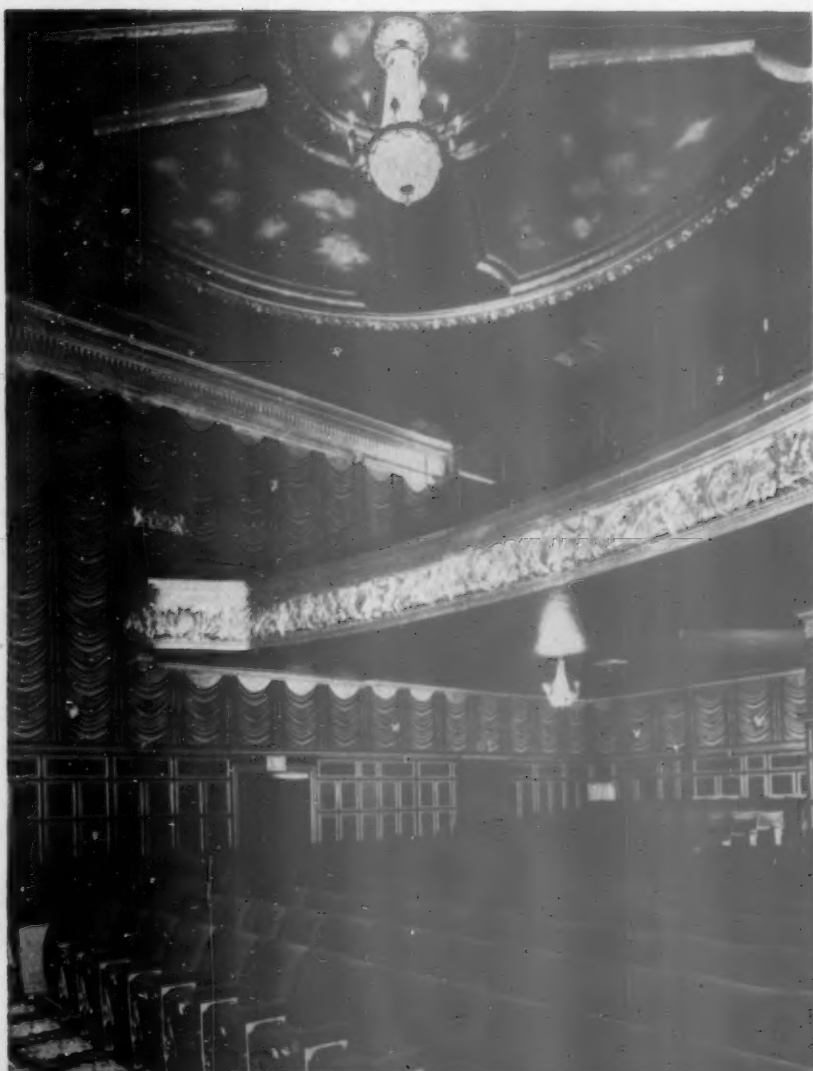
Viewpoint 8

Above: Proscenium opening showing gilded enrichments and hand-blocked wallpaper.

Right: View of auditorium from screen, showing original balcony front and ceiling enrichments gilded. Ceiling panels are painted sky-blue with cloud effect. Seating is upholstered in crimson.

ACADEMY  
CINEMA,  
OXFORD  
STREET

Viewpoint 7







The new Parliament Buildings were opened on February 16 by the Governor of Kenya, Sir Evelyn Baring. Top R: The new Council Chamber, showing Public and Press Galleries, the Speaker's Chair and benches. Bottom R: One of the Committee rooms

## New Parliament Buildings, Kenya

ARCHITECT: THORNLEY H. DYER, F.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I.,

Town Planning Adviser to the Government of Kenya

THE art of the town-planner has often been described as the handling of space, and the fact that open spaces are seen in movement largely determined the siting of the new home of Legislative Council in City Square, at the foot of the hill and at the junction of open parkland and formal civic gardens. The view of the Law Courts from the highway and from the Hill has been preserved and this strong axis maintained, and by placing the building with its high Tower at the side of this axis an infinite variety of view-points is secured.

The Tower is more than a shell to accommodate offices, archives, tanks and clockworks; it expresses by its vertical form the special significance and unique functions of the building and brings it into scale with a large open space and with a series of future buildings most of which will be many times larger than itself.

The planning of the building is very much an expression of contemporary life, and the same principles which influence the siting and landscaping apply within the building where, rather than going from room to room, we are led by continuity of colour or shape-relationships from one enclosed space to another. The landscape treatment forms an essential element in the design, and the forecourt, gardens and terraces are conceived as living-spaces or open-air rooms. The breakaway from rigid classical planning, and from the conception of façade design in which a uniform external pattern of fenestration was often applied to rooms

of widely differing character and use, makes for much greater freedom and allows the arrangement of the different elements of the accommodation to suit their practical requirements, with proper consideration for aspect, view, prevailing wind, and insulation from noise, heat or cold.

In spite of its contemporary expression, the influence and inspiration of Westminster is apparent in the proportion of the Tower to the double-storeyed façades. Within the Council Chamber, the comparison is no less marked. The age-old procedure of the House of Commons is reflected in the arrangement of the Chamber; the Members' benches facing each other on two sides; the traditional Despatch Table in the centre, with Clerks' and Chairman of Committees' desk; the processional approach; the Division Lobbies and the extending Bar of the House at the entrance; the galleries above at either end; and the great Speaker's Chair dominating the whole.

Historic association and traditional procedure dictated the shape and arrangement of the Chamber to a large extent, but no less important was the influence of acoustical requirements. Speeches made from any point on the floor of the House need to be clearly audible throughout the Chamber; and though the number of seats is comparatively small and their arrangement is compact, the distance sound has to travel up to the Public Gallery (the front row of which is reserved for the Press), and to the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery above the entrance, would create echoes

and distortion unless special precautions were taken. The flat ceiling and the wood panelling will reinforce speech; while rebound, or excess sound will be absorbed by the carpet covering the whole of the floor and by the acoustic tiles lining the upper walls. As an extra precaution, microphones fitted to the table and controlled by a panel in the Hansard box will ensure debates being distinctly heard through loud-speakers in both Galleries.

The Council Chamber is lit from two 25ft-high windows on either side, and protected from the glare of direct light by louveres on the outside, giving a soft, translucent effect. The lofty ceiling is decorated with a rich diapered pattern of royal blue, picked out in crimson and gold, surrounded by a primrose ground. The floor is carpeted in traditional green, and the crimson hide of the centre furnishings stands out against the natural hide of the Members' benches and the quiet warmth of the mvule and mninga panelling.

Guarding the entrance to the Chamber are two wrought-iron grilles (of local manufacture), the gift of the City of Nairobi, while the crimson leather-lined swing doors, set in an architrave enriched with ornate "rosettes" carved in Mombasa, have been presented by the Mombasa Municipal Board. The carving of the Speaker's Chair was entrusted to a long-established firm of craftsmen in England who were responsible for the carving in the new House of Commons. The Screen and Bar of the House, incorporating rosettes carved by the same English firm, has been presented by the Kenya Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The Speaker's Inner Chair, carved by a local firm, is the gift of the Municipality of Kitale; the Despatch Table has been given by the East African Railways and Harbours and was made in their workshops; and the three chairs at the Despatch Table were presented by the Municipalities of Eldoret and Kisumu. Of the two Despatch Boxes, one is the gift of Major Cavendish-Bentinck, and the other of the Zanzibar Government.

The building has three main entrances; the Members' Entrance, from the Members' car park on the south side of the Main Hall; the Ceremonial Entrance under the Tower, looking out to Connaught Road and facing the main gates, in front of which the Guard of Honour will assemble; and the Public Entrance to the Gallery of the Council Chamber. The massive, richly-carved "Arab" doors of the Ceremonial Entrance were the work of instructors and students of the Mombasa Institute of Muslim Education, to the architects' design based on the traditional Arab doors of the coast, and using a Kenya coastal timber, Mbambakofi. These doors lead through to a spacious, marble-lined Hall, enlivened opposite the entrance by a colourful heraldic design of African tribal shields painted on grey ceramic tiles, to which will later be added the Coat of Arms of Kenya as a centre-piece. On either side of the opening below this decorative wall are massed flowering shrubs and foliage growing in enclosed "gardens" which, with the carved wooden grille doors form the entrance to the lounge and the high, curved dining-bay overlooking the garden. The inner side of the lounge is lined with windows and glazed doors, making the terrace with its fountain and rockery, seem a natural extension of the room.

Opening off the Entrance Hall to the right is a long cloister-like colonnade, linking the rest of the building, by way of the Library and Writing-room, to the Council Chamber. The turquoise columns of the Hall continue along this colonnade, which is open to the paved terrace and garden. At the Council Chamber end, protection from the westering sun is given by intricately patterned concrete grilles running from the full height of the building. A staircase forms a stop to this end of the colonnade and leads up to the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery, or, by-passing the Council Chamber, to the Committee Rooms, and on to the Ministers' Rooms and offices above the lounge. These can also be reached by way of the wide staircase which winds up from the Main Hall to the central reception landing on the first floor.

Wherever possible, local materials have been used in the furnishings of the building. Local woods, mvule, mninga, cedar, camphor, podo and mahogany, have been combined in panelling, flooring and furniture. The round conference

tables in the Committee Rooms in particular deserve mention as illustrating the extremely high standard of craftsmanship which can be achieved in this country. One of these tables, together with the chairs and the panelling of the room, is in Uganda mahogany, the generous gift of the Uganda Government.

## GRANTS FOR HISTORIC CHURCHES

THE Historic Churches Preservation Trust announces a number of grants to churches of special distinction whose needs are particularly urgent.

Beverley Minster in Yorkshire, which is generally accepted as the most magnificent parish church in England, is to receive £3,000. Weobley parish church in Herefordshire is granted £2,000 in addition to a token grant of £200 already voted. These are both medieval churches in the Gothic style, with some Norman work at Weobley. The Trust has undertaken the whole financial responsibility for seeing that Great Witely parish church, near Worcester, is put back into good repair; and St. Ann's, Manchester, is given a second grant of £500 in addition to £100 already voted. These two churches, built in the 18th century, are also treated as special cases. The Trust has also voted an interest-free loan of £1,000 to the late medieval church at Great Budworth, Cheshire, to enable first-aid work to be undertaken while the financial and architectural aspects are considered.

The normal method of the Trust, as funds become available, is to apportion sums among the dioceses and to seek the advice of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches on the best use to which the available sum can be put. In this way the Trust allocated £50,000 in 1953 and is now in the process of apportioning another £100,000. It has been decided, however, on account of the needs of the above-mentioned five cases, to treat them outside the diocesan apportionment.

The Trust also announces two grants to village churches in Hampshire completing the first diocesan apportionment. Ashley is to receive a second grant of £150 in addition to £150 already voted, and Knights Enham is also to get £150.

In a statement accompanying the announcement, Mr. Ivor Bulmer-Thomas, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Trust, says:—

"It is very pleasant to be able to announce these urgently needed grants to churches of such first-class importance, and I know the pleasure they will give to the harassed incumbents and churchwardens. But I want to emphasize that what the Trustees are able to do is governed by the funds at our disposal, and funds are very short. Owing to the large number of competing appeals last year it was impossible to bring home to the nation the dire peril of our unique heritage of parish churches. About £366,000 has so far been raised or promised, but it is essential to raise that figure to £1,000,000 before the end of the year if we are to make a real impression on this problem. In all £4,000,000 must be found before ten years are out. We are even now engaged in apportioning £100,000 among many needy claimants. That money is not yet in our hands. We are doing so in an act of faith that, before it is called upon, the British people will have realized the magnitude of the task and responded to it. Contributions, large or small, will be welcomed by the Secretary, Historic Churches Preservation Trust, Fulham Palace, London, S.W.6."

## National Parks Commission Appointments

The Minister of Housing and Local Government, Mr. Harold Macmillan, has recently made the following appointments to the National Parks Commission:—

Mr. Clyde Higgs, a farmer, of Stratford-on-Avon; Mr. Alan Lubbock, Vice-Chairman of the Hampshire County Council, of Adhurst St. Mary, Petersfield; Mr. D. Francis Morgan, O.B.E., a member of the Council of the Boy Scouts' Association, of Heddon House, Reigate; Mr. W. H. Vaughan, a member of the Forestry Commission, of Groeswen, Port Talbot; in place of Mr. J. V. Allen; Lord Merthyr, T.D., J.P.; Mr. Tom Stephenson; and Sir William Taylor, C.B.E., whose terms of office recently expired.

# PARTNERSHIP

LET me be perfectly honest and state that in looking back over my life I can see occasions when, if I had grasped the opportunities which were presented, I might have been a richer man to-day. Riches, however, are not everything; independence, to my mind, is to be prized above riches.

This was the way I tried to explain the position to a young architect who came to seek my advice as to whether he should leave his safe, but rather dull, municipal employment for that of a partnership in an expanding architectural business. I sincerely hope that before these words reach the printer I will hear he has taken the plunge. I admire any architect, who has got caught by the snare of the monthly cheque, who leaves that safe job and risks all for independence.

It may be argued that by joining in partnership you are not as independent as if you commenced in practice on your own account. This may be so, but a partnership offers an opportunity to many who have not got the nerve, capital or desire to commence on their own account.

Before, however, you enter into a partnership I would advise you to give very careful thought as to why you are being offered a share in an established business.

Let me take the case of the young architect who came for my advice. He had been approached to join in partnership with an architect of about the same age, for the simple reason that his business was expanding so rapidly that he was having to decline work. In addition, he was finding the responsibilities too great for so young a pair of shoulders.

To decline work when you have not been long in practice is, to say the least, annoying, but to take on work and not give it the personal attention it demands is not playing the game either by the client or the profession.

In architecture, as in many professions, clients expect to have the personal attention of a partner of the firm and not to be fobbed off with an assistant.

This was a clear case of a genuine need for a partner and I advised my friend to accept.

Let me quote another case, however. An old architect advertised for a partner and asked for a stiff premium. Unfortunately a young architect with a war gratuity sank it in the business without making enquiries as to its stability. The business was on its last legs and needed capital. The young fellow lost all. My advice is, have nothing to do whatsoever with a partnership of this nature.

You may ask how one is to know the state of a business. Ask to see copies of the audited balance sheets for the previous three years, and if there is any reluctance to disclose these—well, you can draw your own conclusions.

If at all possible, borrow the balance sheets and have them scrutinized by a chartered accountant. He will explain the true state of affairs of the business. I would also ask for a list of jobs in hand, under construction and at sketch-plan stage, and the approximate cost of these. You can then roughly work out for yourself the fees that are likely to accrue over the next few years. If the result of your calculations does not inspire confidence, do not entertain the proposal.

A number of now well-known partnerships have been brought about by a young architect either winning a competition or being offered some large commission which he or she did not feel sufficiently competent to execute without the help and advice of some other architect. It is not often, however, that a young architect seeking a partnership is in the happy position of being able to offer as an inducement to the other partner a commission in addition to his services.

Put yourself in the shoes of an architect in his fifties who can look back on his struggle to work up to a successful practice with the thought that if he ploughs a lone furrow as he has done in the past, his practice will die with him.

One cannot but sympathize with him in his anxiety to know that the business will continue after his death, and his wish to take a partner into the business with this aim in view.

There are definite advantages on both sides to a partnership of this nature. The senior partner knows that contracts will continue after his retirement or death, and that his load will be lightened with his advancing years. The young partner has the advantage of the goodwill of the firm, is able to meet the firm's clients and, what is equally important, learn the senior partner's methods regarding contacts and the conduct of the business.

You will no doubt be able to think of a number of partnerships of this nature which have proved of benefit both architecturally and financially.

The inevitable question most young architects ask when considering a partnership is: Have I the finances to seek a partnership? I must admit I was faced with the same question, and I sought advice from a young solicitor who I knew had purchased a partnership with an old-established county firm. He laid before me the following alternative methods of overcoming this most awkward situation.

There is no awkwardness about the situation if you have the necessary capital, of course, but I am assuming that you are in the same position as I was at that time—not overblessed with a high bank balance.

Let us assume you have very little capital and therefore you require an income even to live the first year. The firm may be willing to pay you a living

wage plus, at the end of the year, a proportion of the profits. The alternative is for a calculation of the anticipated profits to be made and you to receive your share on a monthly basis. A reassessment would have to be made at the end of the first year.

There are various ways of calculating the junior partner's share. Another method is for the junior partner to receive and to be guaranteed a minimum salary. His share of the profits can be graded until, say, the tenth year before he receives a half, with his minimum salary deducted from his share.

These three methods may sound too good to be true, but I have known them to work successfully.

Most firms would, I feel, expect a new partner to contribute a lump sum payment as his share of the goodwill of the established practice. An alternative to this is that when the Partnership Agreement is entered into, provision may be made for the senior partner, or his wife, receiving, on his retirement or death, a pension from the firm. This, in other words, is an insurance policy against their old age. In this case no lump sum might be requested.

There may be many other financial arrangements but, as far as I can ascertain, these, or ones of a similar nature, are the most common.

Once you have agreed to enter into partnership, I would recommend that you do not enter the practice on a word-of-mouth agreement, however well you know the other fellow. Have a Partnership Agreement drawn up by a solicitor, so that if some disagreement unfortunately arises, or the senior partner dies, there can be no doubt about what was agreed between the partners.

It is surprising how easily the harmony of an office may be disturbed and the partnership broken. I would emphasize, therefore, that a Partnership Agreement should contain provisions to cover all eventualities.

The most important point which should be covered by the Agreement is the length of the partnership before some adjustment may be considered to the Agreement. Naturally, as the junior partner, you cannot expect, for example, half the profits, but as time advances, and your value to the firm increases, an adjustment to your share of the profits as set out in the Agreement may well be justified.

There are many other points which will be covered by the Agreement. Might I suggest that you study them carefully before you sign. If you are in doubt about their meaning or future implications, do not hesitate to have them explained to your satisfaction. In fact, I would suggest that the junior partner engage his own solicitor to advise him, as I think you will agree that it is difficult, even with the best intentions in the world, for one solicitor to draw up an Agreement which is absolutely honest to both sides.

M. E. TAYLOR



# Review of Planning Policy in 1953: III

## *Development Auxiliary to Housing*

BY FRANK LAYFIELD

**I**N and around districts devoted to Housing there are places and buildings where activities are carried on that are desirable and even essential to the convenience of local residents. Such local services as shops of many kinds, garages and petrol pumps, builders, plumbers and a host of others are familiar features of almost every neighbourhood. These services are much wanted; their absence helped to make many pre-war housing estates the bleak places they were. But, though much desired, the choice of the proper place to put them gives rise to much argument and forms the subject of many planning appeals. The importance of this class of development and the frequency with which the problems arise when it is proposed make it desirable to know what attitude the Minister has formed in these matters. Unfortunately, the decisions available tend to be rather vague in expression and sometimes incoherent. Nevertheless, some useful points emerge from reading them. The attitude the Minister adopts when such development is proposed inside a house has been discussed in the preceding article. Now, therefore, it remains to see what views he has on these same activities occurring, on the one hand in areas selected for these purposes exclusively, and on the other, what the curtilage of houses or on isolated sites among houses.

### **Groups of Auxiliary Development**

In many places there are areas of land almost exclusively devoted to development of the kind under discussion; many development plans reserve land for the future provision of such groups or centres. Regarding the latter the Minister has remarked that

"It is a proper object of planning to secure that adequate provision is made in growing districts for the spiritual and social needs of the people living there. It is unfortunate that such a large residential area as that referred to in this appeal [i.e., Raynes Park] has become built-up without sufficient and suitable land being reserved for all the ancillary services that go to make a well-balanced community."

Most forms of auxiliary development create some measure of local disturbance, either because they emit noise, smell, dust and so on or because they create traffic, vehicular or pedestrian. It is doubtless these attributes which make the Minister more chary of allowing this kind of development among houses than in centres reserved for the purpose. The developer who wishes to build, say, a shop in such a centre will not, except in a few special

cases, encounter objections based on failure to observe good neighbourliness. But there are other objections he may encounter even if he wishes to use a site in a centre. The first is the argument that there is already a local sufficiency of the service he seeks to supply. This was the reason given by one local authority for their refusal to allow a fried fish shop to be established in a case published in the second Bulletin of Selected Appeal Decisions. The authority said that

"Approval had already been given for the establishment of a fish-frying business on the adjoining plot of land and if the proposed development were permitted it would prejudice the orderly distribution of such businesses . . . Two businesses of this type within such a small site would not constitute balanced development nor good planning."

The Minister, when giving his decision, clearly rejected this somewhat vague and arbitrary contention. Since then the Minister has continued to express a largely similar view, remarking in another instance that

"The fact that there are already four fried-fish shops in the town is not, in his opinion, a sufficient reason for refusing planning permission."

The Secretary of State, published yet another example in the Scottish Bulletin; when dealing with a somewhat similar case to that already noted, he argued that

"So far as concerned the local planning authority's plea that there was a sufficiency of fried-fish shops in the neighbourhood, this could only be tested by public demand."

Another objection which the developer may encounter is that, though the site he wishes to develop is inside an area reserved generally for such development, the particular site concerned has been earmarked by the local authority for some particular, other use. If the Authority can show that there is an urgent need for the development which they propose and that no other suitable sites are available for it, they may succeed. This they were not able to do in a case quoted in the tenth Bulletin. In that instance, the Council concerned had reserved a plot for a community centre and the appellant wished to build a public house on it. One of the reasons for which the appeal was allowed was

"The Minister said he was advised that there was a need for a community centre in this area, but that it was not essential that it should be located on the site under appeal, since there were other sites available in the area."

This view is reiterated in a decision given in 1953. The Merton and

Morden U.D.C. had refused to permit the erection of a church and church hall because they said that the land concerned was needed for the extension of the local shopping centre at Raynes Park. Among other things, the Minister in his decision letter observed

"In the present case it seems to him to be proved that no other suitable site is reasonably available for a church and church hall; and he sees no reason to differ from the views expressed by and on behalf of the appellant as to the need. As there are already 19 shops and a departmental store in this subsidiary shopping area and room will remain for at least five more, he has come to the conclusion that he should allow the appeal."

The development was permitted subject to certain conditions as to design and detailed siting. Finally, it may be noted that the wording of this and similar decisions gives ground for believing that the developer's case will be stronger if he can show local need for the service he proposes to provide.

### **Auxiliary Development on Isolated Sites**

The development of isolated sites in, or immediately adjacent to, housing districts, seems to be governed by two main factors. First come questions of good neighbourliness, that is to say, what measure of disturbance the development is likely to cause to its neighbours. Secondly, there is the appropriateness of the site for the purpose concerned. Several of the Minister's decisions in 1953 shed light on both these considerations.

It is reasonable to ask at the outset what kind of qualities are likely to be regarded as unneighbourly in a residential area. The answer, to judge from many Ministerial pronouncements, appears to lie in that woolly, unsatisfactory and oft-repeated phrase "detrimental to amenity." This phrase has been explained by the Ministry in its official report (Cmd. 8204, page 139), by saying that

"the disturbance of a residential area caused by noise from a saw mill or a repair garage, by the smell or flies from pigsties, by dust or smoke from industry, or by the general bustle created by the establishment of a business . . . any development likely to concentrate traffic in places where there is not enough room to take it comfortably . . . anything ugly, dirty, noisy, crowded, destructive, intrusive or uncomfortable may 'injure the interests of amenity' and, therefore, be of concern to the Planning Authority."

In view of the particularity of this statement it is a pity that in recent decisions vague phraseology is still employed. Thus where an appellant



wished to erect a garage building among houses in Carmarthen the Minister said

"He considers that the commercial uses which your client proposes to introduce into this area are quite out of place there and would undoubtedly harm its amenity."

A decision letter that concerned an appeal in Kent was a shade more specific. The appellants wished to use a disused Methodist chapel in Hollingbourne as a garage for three lorries. They contended that no repair work would be carried out there and any noise made would be negligible compared with that emanating from the nearby street.

"The Minister states that the building is in a mainly residential neighbourhood and he agrees with the Council that its use for the purpose proposed would be out of keeping with the character of the village and tend to cause annoyance and disturbance to residents nearby."

It may reasonably be assumed that noise and traffic were the operative factors here; nevertheless, it might have been more helpful had the decisive reasons been stated.

Smell is also a thing to be considered and this is sometimes allied to noise. A prominent example is to be found in the case of piggeries. A certain Scottish appellant wished to erect a piggery in a field on the outskirts of a small country town. The Secretary of State's decision stated, among other things, that

"the local planning authority contended that, in view of the situation of the proposed piggery near dwelling-houses . . . the building should not be allowed."

In dismissing the appeal he stated that "it would be detrimental to the amenity of the neighbourhood and not in the interests of good planning" to allow the piggery to be built on the site proposed. Probably much the same questions of noise and smell applied to a case at Blackpool in June, 1953. In this instance a small plot of land, of about one fourteenth of an acre, among houses was to be used for building a hen cabin. It was said that:

"While similar uses exist in the area he [the Minister] observes that the plots on which they are planned out are, for the most part, much larger than the site under appeal and that the other buildings are comparatively remote from dwellings and that the uses have been established for many years. He also notes that the Council consider, in the light of past experience, that this type of development has an adverse effect on the surrounding houses."

He added that the keeping of poultry on a small plot of land "cannot fail to cause annoyance to those living nearby."

This type of legitimate objection was much more clearly put in another case in 1953. The Minister refused to allow the erection of a marquee and tents at Rhyl. These were to be

erected on a site bordering the residential area and on an existing car-park. The Minister noted the unattractive appearance of the site and said he might be prepared to allow a permanent building but

"He takes the view, however, that the proposed tented theatre would do more harm to the appearance of the front than does the present car-park, and that the noise caused by performances taking place under canvas would be an annoyance to those living and staying nearby."

Quite apart from matters of neighbourliness, that turn on questions of appearance, noise and the like, much depends on how suitable is the site for the proposed use. This may be illustrated by two contrasting decisions made in 1953. In the first example the applicant wanted permission to continue the use of some garages in Hendon for storage purposes. The local authority refused because they said the proper use of the garages was for the accommodation of private motor vehicles. The appellant stated that there was nothing offensive to local residents in the use. The Minister, however, said in his letter that

"While he appreciates that your client's use of the premises is not offensive, he is bound to agree with the council that it is wrong to use this garage for storage purposes and that it should revert to its proper use as a lock-up garage. The evidence given by the Council as to the number of cars parked at night in the nearby streets seems to indicate that there is a need for garage facilities in the area."

It is interesting to compare this decision with one that concerned land at Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire. There permission was sought to erect a builder's workshop in the village. The Minister rejected the objection raised on traffic grounds and went on to say

"In his view the proposed development is not out of keeping with the activities normally carried on in a village community, and he notes that the local residents are in favour of it."

Accordingly he allowed the building of a carpenter's shop and painter's store subject to certain conditions as to design, siting and use of machinery.

When development of the kind under discussion is to be carried out within the curtilage of a house all the foregoing considerations apply. It must, however, be borne in mind that, except in unusual circumstances, the very fact that the activities concerned are to take place within the curtilage often means that they are nearer to adjacent houses. This means that neighbourly considerations apply with extra force. An example may be quoted from Chelsfield, concerning a builder's yard.

"In announcing his decision, the Minister states that he agrees with the council's view that the builder's yard is unsuitably sited in the garden of a private house and close to other houses. He is satisfied that it should not be permitted to remain as a permanent feature."

In view, however, of the fact that the yard had been there for a long time without serious objection, a temporary permission was granted to enable removal to be effected conveniently.

#### Summary

Broadly speaking, it seems true to say that if development to serve residential areas is proposed in places reserved for that general purpose, little difficulty should be encountered. The Minister has, on many occasions, refused to accept contentions that there is already a sufficient amount of the service concerned already provided in the locality as adequate reason for refusal of planning permission. In such circumstances it also appears likely that reservations for special purposes within such areas by local authorities will require very strong support if they are to be upheld by the Minister as adequate reason for refusal of planning permission. Moreover, while objections on the grounds of disturbance to neighbours may sometimes figure in such matters they are usually likely to be of no very great importance.

Where development of the type under discussion is proposed on isolated sites among houses or within the curtilage of a house, neighbourly considerations do become important. The closer the development proposed to the surrounding houses the more important such considerations become. Lastly, leaving aside neighbourly considerations, it has to be asked how appropriate is the site for the development proposed.

#### "Share Your Home" Scheme to End

Housing Authorities in England and Wales are being asked by the Minister of Housing and Local Government to notify householders who still have accommodation registered with them under Defence Regulation 68 CB that the Government intend shortly before December 10, 1954, to seek an Order in Council revoking the Regulation completely.

Regulation 68 CB was introduced in 1945 to encourage householders to let spare rooms to homeless or overcrowded people, or people coming to work in the district, pending the easing of the housing shortage through new building and the repair of war damage. A register of spare accommodation offered for this purpose was kept by the local authority. The regulation waived for the time being any clause in a tenancy or lease forbidding sub-letting in this way, and also provided that a letting would be outside the operation of the Rent Restriction Acts, so that there should be no legal obstacle to ending an arrangement when it had become unsatisfactory to the householder.

Under the terms of the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill, now before Parliament, the occupant of a registered letting would still not have security of tenure under the Rent Restriction Acts, but any subsequent letting would come within those Acts. Any standard rent which may have been established before the registered letting would be a material consideration in assessing a fresh standard rent for the accommodation.



Perspective of four early 19th-century houses which are being reproduced by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government at Olympia. The plans are shown on the right.

## Houses at the Ideal Home Exhibition

### Saving Older Houses by Conversion

**A** PRACTICAL demonstration of how old, out-of-date but structurally sound houses can be made to play their full part in the housing drive is to be given by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in their exhibit at the *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition, to be held at Olympia London, from March 2-27.

The Ministry are reproducing full size part of a terrace of three-storey houses which were built well over a hundred years ago in Clarence Gardens, St. Pancras, London.

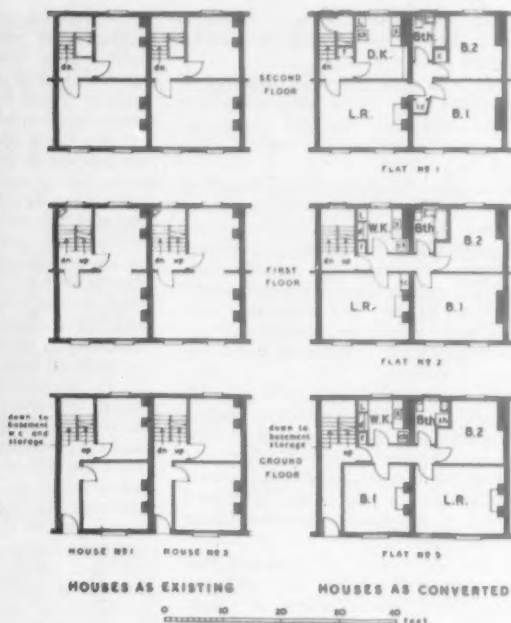
There are four houses in the Olympia exhibit. The first is typical of this kind of house before conversion. There is no hot-water supply, and the only cold-water tap is in the kitchen. The w.c. is in the back garden. There is no electric light and fireplaces are old-fashioned and inefficient. There are many such houses throughout the country; structurally sound, but lacking modern amenities and often too big for their present-day occupants.

### Grants Available

By showing how houses of this sort can be converted or improved, the Ministry hope to stimulate the interest of house-owners in this kind of work, and to make better known the fact that grants of up to half the cost of the work on each resultant dwelling, subject to a maximum grant of £400 per unit, are available for improvement or for conversion.

The next two houses show how houses of this type can be given a new lease of life. They have been converted horizontally into three self-contained flats—on the ground, first and second floors—to provide good, comfortable homes for three families where two had lived before.

Each flat has its own bathroom and lavatory, hot water from an efficient modern stove fitted with a back boiler, and an electric or gas cooker. Each has a large living room, a kitchen and two bedrooms, but to illustrate the scope for conversion as fully as possible, each has its own special treatment.



For instance, the top floor flat has a dining kitchen and part central heating; the first floor flat a central corridor to give access from the front door to all the rooms; the ground floor flat a shower instead of a bath, and a smaller principal bedroom because of the main entrance passage to the flats.

Ealing Studios are reproducing the cumulative effects of age in designing the decoration and furnishing of the "before conversion" house. It is assumed that it is the home of an elderly couple and their unmarried daughter, who, now that the rest of the family no longer live with their parents, have a house which is too big as well as being uncomfortable.

### Furnished for under £225

Then come the "after conversion" flats. It has been assumed that the top flat is occupied by a skilled craftsman, his wife and two young daughters. The Women's Voluntary Services are furnishing it on a "make do and mend" basis for less than £225. They have bought second-hand furniture and painted it, made new covers for chairs and cushions, and bought and made curtains from new, inexpensive fabrics.

Contemporary furnishings have been chosen by the Council of Industrial Design for the middle flat. Neither cheap nor luxurious, they represent value for money, good taste and modern thought. Here the occupants are taken to be a married couple with a mother-in-law living with them.

The third—ground floor—flat is being used to show how the conversion is done. There are plans and a model of the scheme, and screens illustrating some of the problems likely to be met—dry rot, sound and thermal insulation and fire precautions.

The theme of conversion and improvement is elaborated in the fourth house, where there is a display of photographs and drawings of this type of work, and where the Ministry of Fuel and Power and the Coal Utilisation Council are showing fires and stoves which can give an old house modern standards of comfort and convenience at the least cost in fuel.

# DOMESTIC ELECTRIC WATER HEATING

## SELF-CONTAINED ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS (1)

### The Basic Problem

The water heating service that has to be provided for the majority of households today consists in supplying hot water to not more than three or four taps — bath, basin, sink, and perhaps an additional basin in a bedroom or cloakroom — for the use of from two to six people, both children and adults. The installation must be simple and economical, with running costs strictly governed by the quantity of hot water used, and no maintenance.

### Two Satisfactory Solutions

There are two ways in which the problem can be satisfactorily solved and both make use of electricity. In the first, electricity is employed as the sole means of heating the water, in the second it operates in conjunction with solid fuel in order to ensure a constant supply of hot water without the necessity for lighting a fire during the summer. In both cases experience has shown that the best results are obtained by the storage method whereby hot water is stored in a tank or cylinder fitted with an electric heating element: the capacity of the tank and the loading of the heater are proportioned to the requirements of the household with sufficient heat energy to meet an intermittent demand for varying quantities of hot water.

### Storage Temperatures and Capacities

The quantity of hot water stored and its temperature may be considered as complementary, the higher the temperature the smaller being the quantity of water required (within limits). In practice it is not found advisable to store water at temperatures above 160°F. for soft water, or 140°F. for hard as scale deposit becomes serious above this temperature; the standing losses also reach an uneconomical figure (see WH.2.) and waste may occur in cooling down water for washing.

The minimum desirable storage capacities depend on these facts and the average weekly consumption of hot water in a "typical" household which can be based on the table at the top of the adjoining column. Any special requirements as to usage of hot water should be ascertained at an early stage so that economical means of meeting them can be worked out before the installation is put in hand. Generally speaking it is inadvisable to store less than 18 gallons at 160°F. or 20 gallons at 140°F. (the latter being the lowest effective temperature for hot water at the sink) unless the household requirements are known to be modest in this respect.

### The Main Types of Factory-Made Self-Contained Heaters

Electric water heaters suitable for most domestic requirements can be selected from the wide range of factory-made self-contained units available; particulars are given in the adjoining tables. All have the advantages of correct design, high-class construction and finish, and very efficient thermal insulation. They are fitted with one or two thermostatically controlled heating elements as required, and are not likely to be seriously affected by frost. As the heating elements are completely immersed, heat transference to the water is always 100%, even if the elements become encrusted with scale, because there is no other outlet for the heat. That is to say they perform with maximum efficiency whatever the hardness (or softness) of the public water supply with perfect safety.

These self-contained units are manufactured in non-pressure and pressure types, there being two forms of each.

### Non-Pressure Types


All heaters of this type have to be fixed above the highest draw-off point. The open-outlet type is designed to serve only one fitting at a time, be it bath, basin or sink, and as its name implies,

1

Use	Quantities	Initial Temp.	Gallons required at	140°F.	160°F.
Hot bath	25 galls.	110°F.	16.2	13.4	
Handwashing	1 gall. per usage	110°F.	0.88	0.33	
Dishwashing	1 gall. per meal	140°F.	1.00	0.82	
House and floor cleaning	2 galls. per day	140°F.	2.00	1.64	
Laundry	10 galls. per week	140°F.	10.00	8.20	

*These figures assume a cold water temperature of 54°F. which is the official average over the whole year.*

## 2 ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS NON-PRESSURE OPEN OUTLET TYPE



Capacity in galls.	18	35	58	125	150	200
Standard Loadings, kW.	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.50	1.50	2.00
Height ins. (H)	26½	35	38½	47½	57½	59½
Diam. ins. (D)	11	13	14	18	18½	20½
Bottom Clearance (ins.)	12	12	12	18	24	30

*All models are fixed to walls: max. projection from wall face is diameter, plus 1". All dimensions given are maxima. Recommended top and side clearances 6 to 9 ins. according to type and size of heater: consult makers for all final particulars. 1½ gallon and 3 gallon models may be connected direct to water main: check local requirements with Water Supply Authorities.*

## 3 ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS SINGLE ELEMENT PRESSURE TYPE

Capacity in galls.	12	15	30	30
Standard Loadings, kW.	1.3	1.5	2.0	3.0
Max. o/a Height (ins.)	46½	56½	58½	61
Max. dia. (ins.)	18	18½	20½	24
Bottom Clearance (ins.)	18	24	30	30
Mounting	Wall	Wall	Wall	Wall or floor

*Other models with capacities of 40, 50, 60 and 100 gallons are available, all of floor mounting type with front entry horizontal heating elements. Cold supply from separate cistern. Vent pipe essential.*

## 4 ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS DUAL ELEMENT PRESSURE TYPE

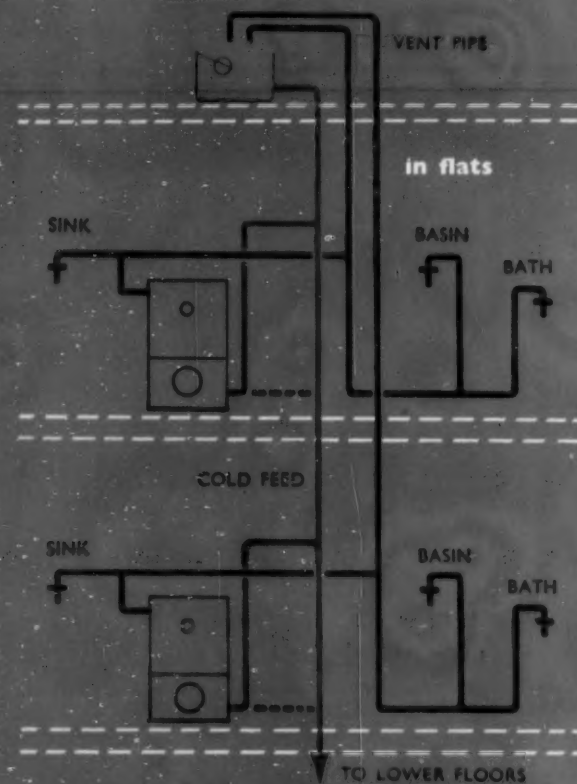
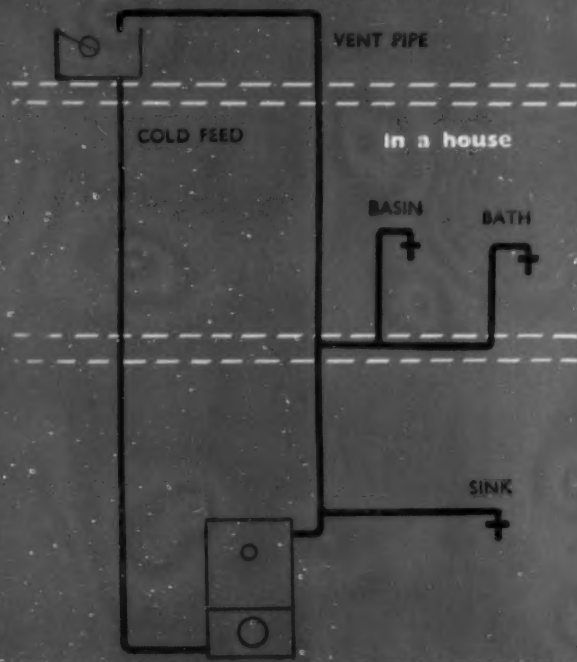
Capacity in Galls.	20	30	35	40
Loading kW.	Top 2.0 Bottom 2.0	Top 2.0 Bottom 2.0	Top 2.0 Bottom 2.0	Top 2.0 Bottom 2.0
Height o/a ins.	33	47	54	61
Diam. ins.	20	20	20	20
Base Size ins.	—	—	—	—

*All models are made with flat bases to stand on the floor. In some cases variation in loadings of heaters is possible, consult makers. Cold supply from separate cistern. Vent pipe essential.*

**W H.1**



(ADDITIONAL)  
THE USE OF DUAL ELEMENT PRESSURE TYPE  
ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS



Note that cold feed to electric water heaters should branch from the downfeed at a point above the top of the heaters on upper floors (not as shown dotted) to prevent them from being emptied when a heater below is drained down.

is provided with an open outlet, usually in the form of a swivelling spout through which hot water flows when a tap on the cold inlet pipe is turned on to let water into the water heater. Capacities vary from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 30 gallons and all models should be fitted above the point of use, e.g., bath, basin, sink, washing machine, etc.: space should be made available where necessary for the withdrawal of the heating element which enters the storage vessel from the bottom.

Cistern type heaters are provided with an integral cold feed cistern immediately above the hot storage vessel from which it is insulated and into which the vent pipe discharges. Their application and installation will be discussed in WH.2.

#### Pressure Types

These heaters are designed for use when hot water is required from more than one tap at a time. All models are totally enclosed, and fed from the usual ball-valve cistern like a solid-fuel-operated system. They are very efficiently insulated and are provided with connections for the hot water draw-off pipe which is continued upwards to turn over above the ball-valve cistern as vent, and a drain cock. They will supply all the hot water needed for a house or flat, and can be installed at ground floor level, the larger sizes of heaters being designed to stand on the floor. Capacities vary from 12-100 gallons (see Table overleaf). Pressure type heaters are widely used, especially in the dual element form.

#### Dual Element Pressure Type Heaters

The 20 gallon size, which is most frequently used, is designed to stand under the draining board beside the sink, where it is nearest to the most frequently used tap in the house. In most cases one heating element of 500 watts loading, mounted in the upper part of the storage vessel, is permanently connected to the electricity supply, under control of its thermostat so as to provide about 6 gallons of hot water for general daily use. The lower heater of 2,500 watts is brought into use when larger quantities of hot water are required, e.g., for baths or laundry work, by operating a switch mounted on the heater. This arrangement, with efficient insulation and thermostatic control of both heaters and optional reduction in the quantity of hot water stored when demand is low, ensures the lowest possible consumption of electricity, especially when the heater is situated near the sink.

#### Installation of Factory-Made Self-Contained Pressure Type Water Heaters

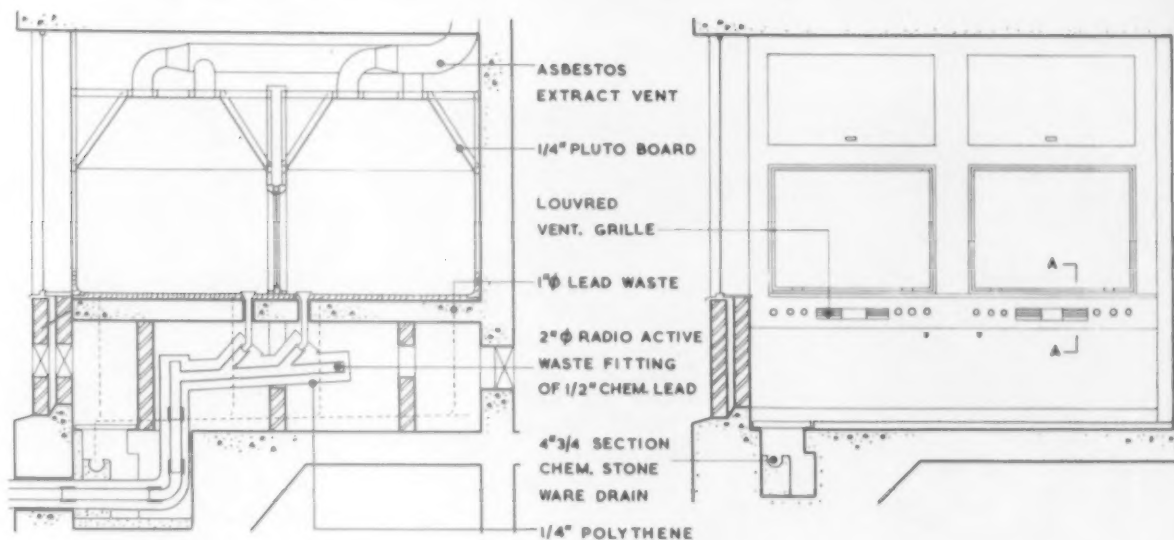
With all domestic electric water heating systems, no waste of heat is possible in the transfer of energy from the electricity to the water, the heating unit being completely immersed. Waste of heat can and does occur, however, from the heated water to the surrounding air through the walls of pipes leading to the taps, and from the hot storage vessel if it is not efficiently insulated like a factory-made water heater. Thus only the position of the heater and the length of the draw-off pipes call for consideration: kitchen and bathroom should be either adjacent or one above the other. As this arrangement is also to be desired in the interests of drainage and plumbing economy, no additional planning complications are involved. The essential point is that electrically heated water must not circulate or be used for warming the bathroom or linen cupboard. There is nothing to be gained by insulating the draw-off pipes. For heaters above 3 gallons capacity, connection to the electricity supply should be made through a 13 or 15 amp. socket-outlet, or the heater may be permanently connected through a switch fixed in a convenient position to cut off the current when required for maintenance purposes. The small heaters may be connected through a 5 amp. socket outlet suitably placed.

For further details apply to

**W H.1 British Electrical Development Association**

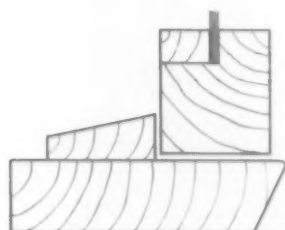
2 Savoy Hill, London, W.C.2. Temple Bar 9434



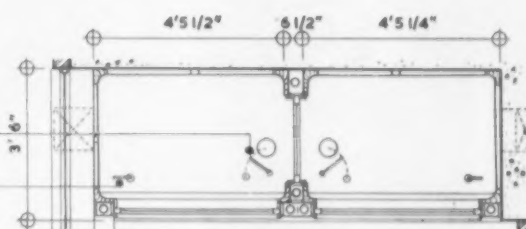


SECTION

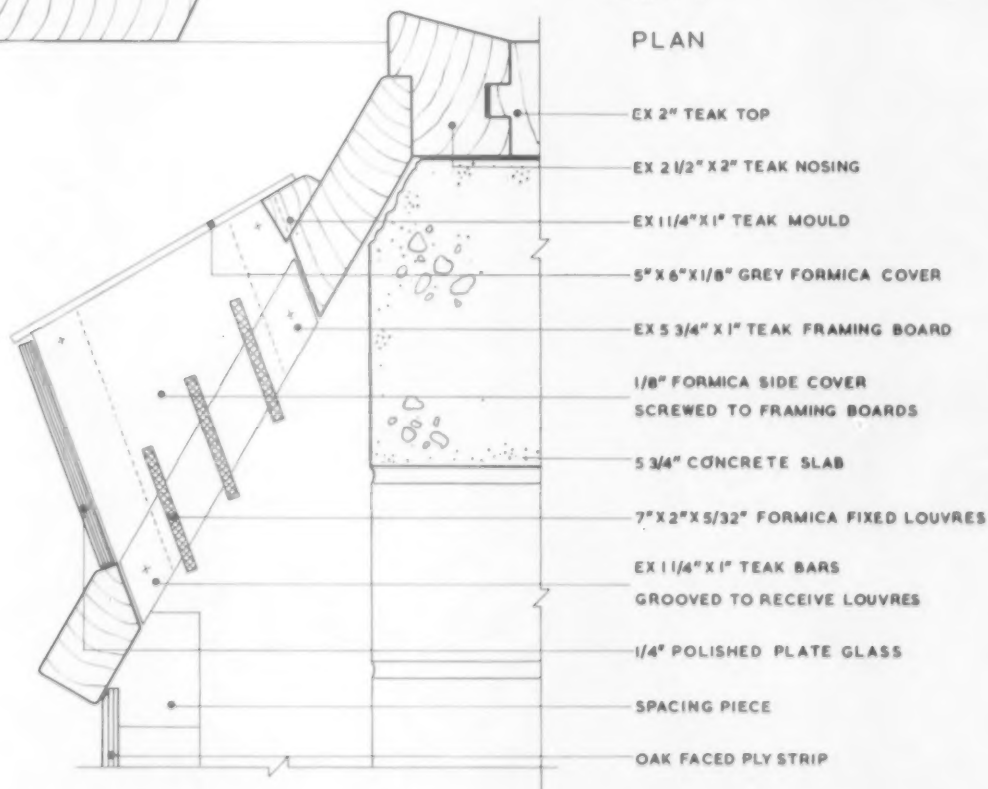
ELEVATION

SWIVEL TAP WITH  
EXTERIOR CONTROL

WATER BEND



PLAN



SECTION A-A

SCALES 1/4" = 1'0" &amp; 3/8" = 1"



FUME CUPBOARDS, HAMMERSMITH HOSPITAL

ARCHITECTS: RAMSEY, MURRAY AND WHITE



THE CHASE COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL, Poolbrook, Malvern

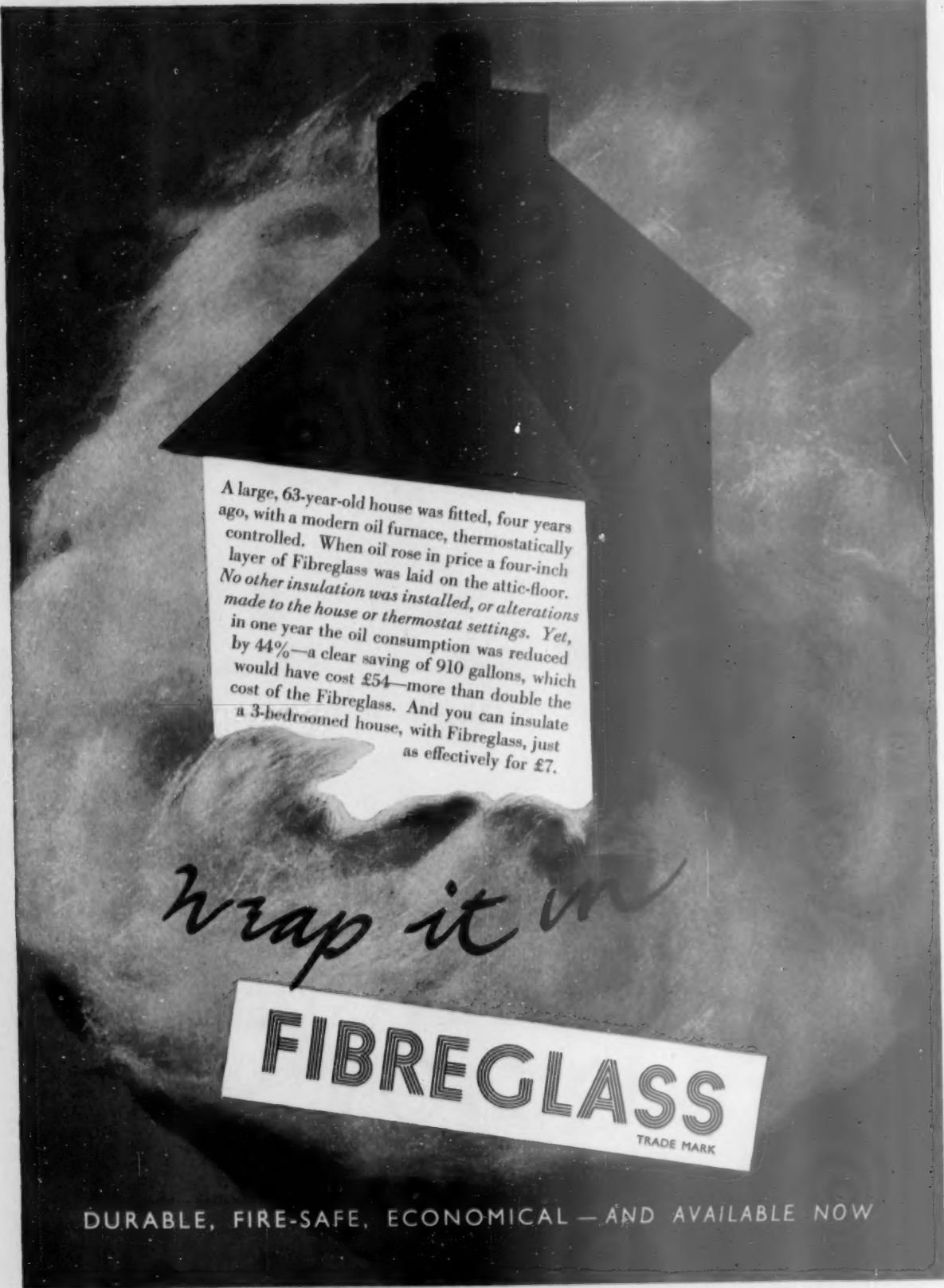
*L. C. Lomas, F.R.I.B.A., County Architect, Worcester. Associate Architects: Robinson & Kay, A.R.I.B.A. Stourbridge*

# HOPE'S

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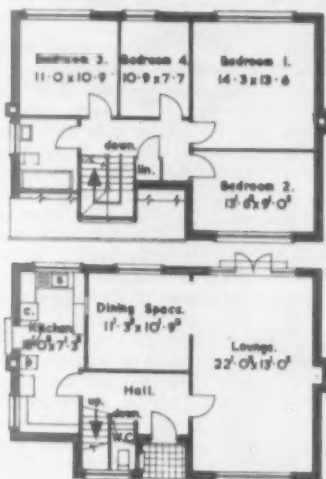
Fibreglass Limited, Ravenhead, St. Helens, Lancs. (St. Helens 4224)



## MORE IDEAL HOMES, 1954



The Berg House



Olympia Village, 1954, which Mr. Trevor Smith, L.R.I.B.A., has designed at the housing display at the *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia consists of two houses and one block of flats, built by private undertakings and another set of flats exhibited by the Ministry of Housing previously described. In addition, there are seven shops designed for the sale of a variety of commodities.

The *Davis House*, built by Davis Estates, Ltd., of Kilburn, is of traditional design and offers the maximum of uncramped space within a floor area of a little less than 1,000 feet.

Two features of this house are the kitchen which is of ample size to permit meals being consumed in comfort, and the third bedroom, which is much larger than the average. The idea behind this is that the room can be used either as a Guest Room or a Nursery.

Houses similar to this are being erected on the various Davis Estates in and around London, Southern England and the Midlands, varied in style to suit the requirements of the locality. They cost, depending on individual circumstances, about £2,750.

The *Berg* 1954 Exhibition House is "a fine residence in the Tudor style."

A stone-faced entrance loggia leads to an attractive lounge hall with oak door, in which is conveniently accommodated a cloakroom and toilet. There is a dining recess of 11ft 6in x 10ft 9in.

The lounge is 22ft x 13ft 6in with a fireplace serving the room efficiently with necessary heating during the winter and can then be transformed to decorative furnishing during the summer months. Four casements give access to the garden.

The kitchen (18ft x 7ft) is aimed at saving all possible labour.

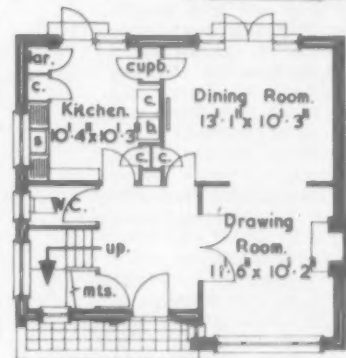
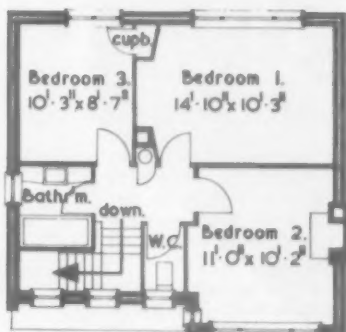
There is also a built-in breakfast nook with a folding table and seats for four or five persons, providing alternative facilities for hasty, informal or occasional meals.

The *Berg* house has four large bedrooms—14ft 3in x 13ft 6in, 13ft 6in x 9ft, 11ft x 10ft 9in, 10ft 9in x 7ft 8in and can obviously accommodate a large family by modern standards.

The price is £4,495. Garage 18ft x 9ft, £180.

The *Unity Structures, Ltd.*, have hitherto specialized in one- and two-storey buildings, of which some 10,000 have now been occupied. The experience gained in that field they have utilized to satisfy the increasing demand for blocks of flats.

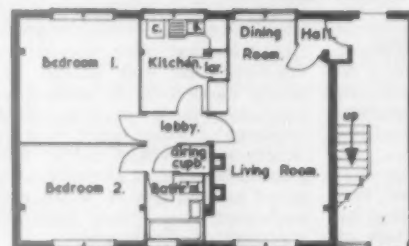
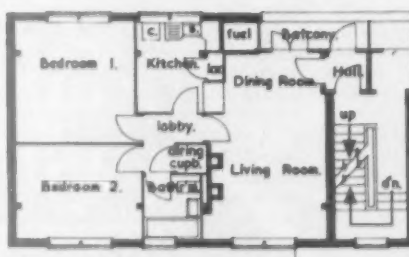
The example built at the *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition this year is a three-storey prototype from a range which eventually will include taller blocks of flats, of one, two and three bedrooms each.



Unity Structures Ltd.—Flats



The Davis House



## Frozen Pipes

**L**IKE many others I have noted the numerous letters in the daily press on this subject and both the Editor and I have had a number of other letters sent directly to us. All these letters endeavour to point out the short-comings of our industry and cry out for immediate remedies. Strangely none seems to offer any remedies, and most of them ask questions but few, if any, suggest that, as I suggested last week, at least a part of the trouble lies with the failure of occupiers to take simple precautions or heat their buildings adequately. I am surprised also that there remain so many householders who have been caught out before but have not taken steps to prevent recurrence.

One letter in the *Times* criticized the suggestion, and one I put forward last week, that to put the plug in a waste would save much trouble; the writer of the criticism pointed out that the water-seal in the trap freezes in spite of the plug. A precaution against this freezing of traps, which seems successful, is to put a handful of salt in the trap to each fitting in the house before going to bed. The real precaution against freezing in traps is obviously to maintain a reasonable temperature inside buildings and when this is not possible at least a temperature between 32 and 34 deg F.

Several letters ask what other countries do to avoid the damage and inconvenience which seem to have to be accepted in this country. I believe the answer is fairly simple. In countries where periodic hard frost is to be expected it is general to adopt more complete heating of buildings at higher temperatures than is normal here and to accompany this with internal plumbing and the installation of such insulation and draughtproofing as are necessary to maintain economically the necessary temperatures indoors. It should be remembered that in most other countries where low temperatures are expected, they also anticipate strong winds which make poor installations very vulnerable without adequate construction.

These basic differences in construction and in the design of installation together with the maintenance of higher indoor temperatures appear to be accepted as necessities if modern standards of constant water supplies are required. This merely brings us back to my theory that all these hard weather troubles could be overcome easily if the clients would be willing to accept slightly higher first costs; I do not believe that in fact the higher costs would be large except that involved in providing the means of maintaining high basic internal temperatures. As for running costs, again, the only possible extra cost is a little more fuel but even this may not be incurred by those who have efficient methods of providing background heating.

I was very attracted by the idea put forward in another letter in the *Times* which suggested that the R.I.B.A. should give "some specific guidance in respect of this important aspect of house design." I think the R.I.B.A. might do this but as was questioned in a reply by Mr. Howard Lobb, how can its members put it over in the many houses for which, unfortunately, they are not responsible. Is the answer a Code of Practice? I have looked up the Codes of Practice for guidance on this subject and C.P. 310 Water Supply gives a considerable amount of information on the protection of pipes and water storage containers.

The advice given in this Code of Practice is very sound and is exactly what most architects would advise their clients to adopt. It may be that some of us are inclined to assume that the plumber will automatically do the right thing and that is where we are let down if our drawings and specifications are not precise in the indication of the main pipe runs, requirements for lagging and protection of pipes and cisterns. However, this code being for water supply installations must assume that those who consult it for guidance on water installations will have read and carried out the requirements for good construction of the walls and roof of the building receiving the water installation.

The provision of adequate thermal insulation of new buildings is called for in Byelaw 78 of the M.O.H. Model Byelaws, which one assumes are being generally accepted for the revisions of local byelaws. Equally the new Model Byelaws for Scotland ask for similar provisions. These requirements should in time contribute considerably to the reduction of damage by frost but they are not a complete safeguard without the association of the maintenance of reasonable internal temperatures and unless higher levels of construction are adopted than those given as "deemed to satisfy" the basic byelaw. It should also be borne in mind that the M.O.H. Model Water Byelaws (Series XXI) of 1949 require, in clause 20, every water fitting laid or fixed in such a position, whether inside or outside a building, as to render it liable to damage by frost, or injury from other causes, shall be reasonably protected from such damage or injury. I have no idea how many supply companies have adopted this clause but it would seem very desirable that they should and, in addition, that they should be very heavy handed in its enforcement as not only is it in the interest of economy of water, since frost damage wastes much water, but it is in the interest of building occupiers as a safeguard against lack of water, great inconvenience and very high cost of replacement of damage.

I have stressed lagging and good

placing of pipes as I am sure these contribute greatly towards less frost failures since one cannot depend on householders, especially those with lower incomes, to maintain adequate temperatures in their buildings nor can one count on a proportion of householders taking the simple precautions which can eliminate so much trouble. However, I have lived in a house since 1939 without suffering any failure of water supplies or other associated inconveniences due to frost, and yet no cold water pipe nor the cold cistern in the roof is lagged. I attribute this immunity from trouble to good building, to adequate heating and to leaving open the doors of the bathroom, the w.c., the scullery and the tank room in the roof so that the general heat of the house reaches them all and keeps their temperature above 32° F. even with a recorded outside temperature of 18° F.; the walls are 11in cavity brickwork, the roofing is tiles on felt and boarding with care taken to see that there is no wind penetration at the eaves. Main cold water pipes are fixed on internal walls although they pass through the larder and first floor w.c., both of which have permanent ventilation and the cold water cistern is kept about 2in away from the gable wall of the roof which is entirely exposed to the north-east wind. No special costs whatever were incurred in the plumbing installation to offset frost risks.

I think it is worth giving here the recommendations in C.P. 310 which are worth noting in connection with frost risks as they are very simple. First, there are those taken from clause 317 which recommends that all piping should be shielded from the effects of frost and particularly from cold draughts of air which may cause local freezing. This can be facilitated by the planning of buildings so that piping can be fixed in protected places. Piping in roof spaces, in ventilated air spaces under floors, or in unheated cellars should be adequately lagged with insulating materials. Roof spaces which contain pipes or cisterns should be enclosed so as to exclude draughts of air, and the piping should not be placed within about 6ft of the eaves. The rising pipe to the storage cistern should be taken as directly as possible to the cistern and should be fixed to internal walls, near a chimney flue if possible (but not so near as to cause undue heating of the water) and away from windows or ventilators. Piping inside buildings should not be attached to external walls of the building if this can be avoided; where this cannot be avoided the piping should be attached by brackets which prevent contact between the piping and the wall, or wooden battens or other insulating materials should be interposed between the piping and the walls.

Clause 322 recommends that cisterns, fixed in roof spaces or otherwise exposed to frost risks, should be protected by an efficient lagging of insulating material. This may consist of an outer casing of wood, spaced at

(Continued on page 245)

*Salt air is an old enemy . . .*



*. . . but Brest learnt from past experience . . . today 80 %*



*of these roofs are zinc.*

AFTER THE LIBERATION, over 14,000 of the 16,500 buildings in Brest were in ruins. Today, as these pictures show, a new Brest has arisen—clean, spacious and strong. More than 80 per cent. of the new buildings are roofed with zinc.

Storms and corrosion are serious problems in a seaport such as Brest. Only roofs of the most practical, hard-wearing type can survive. A century's experience before the war had proved the overwhelming superiority of zinc.

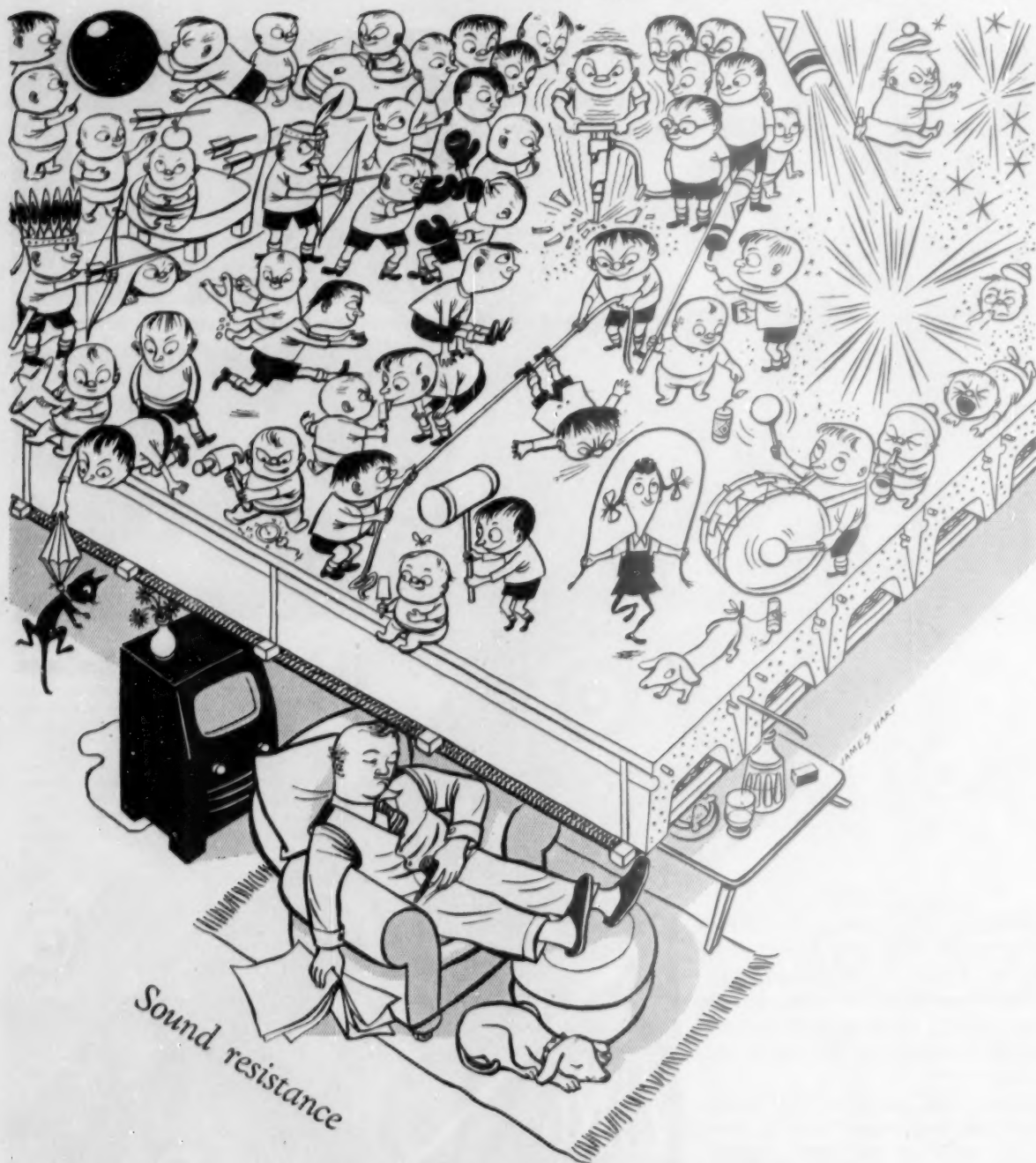
There are now no restrictions on the use of zinc. Supplies are abundant, and likely to remain so for many years. The price has fallen considerably, and zinc is again one of the most economical roofing materials.

## ZINC in plenty

The Zinc Development Association will be pleased to send its publications to potential users, together with lists of stockists of all zinc building materials and of firms specializing in zinc work.

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least 2in away from the sides and bottom of the cistern, the space being filled with insulating materials such as slag-wool. An additional wooden cover, lined with insulating material, may be fixed at least 2in above the normal cover but not so as to be airtight.

Clause 503 recommends that the minimum thickness of insulating material for lagging cold water piping inside buildings should be  $\frac{1}{2}$ in in the case of glass in fibre form, compressed felt, and felted slag or mineral wool, and  $\frac{1}{4}$ in in the case of asbestos, compressed baked cork and granulated cork (raw or baked).

It would seem that it would be worthwhile for every architect, builder and plumber who find it difficult to persuade their clients to pay for adequate planning and protection of pipes and cisterns to draw attention to C.P. 310. As already said, the costs are very small in relation to those of repairing damage caused by the omission of these precautions.

There is obviously little justification for failure to take precautions in new buildings but what can be suggested to avoid recurrences of trouble in existing buildings? Undoubtedly the most common failure is the freezing of a bend at eaves level which cannot easily, if at all, be reached from inside the roof. This trouble I have cured in two houses by taking off tiles from outside and inserting insulating material from outside to connect up with pipe lagging applied as far as could be reached from inside. It will be found that many rising mains are in lead pipe which can be freed from the wall sufficiently to insert a pipe covering or at least a piece of lin board to act as an insulation from the wall. There is usually little difficulty in lagging pipes and cisterns in roof spaces. Much can also be achieved to improve insulation in roof spaces as a number of materials are available in forms, such as quilts, which are easy to handle. The most difficult problems arise from wind penetration at eaves as the sources are often so inaccessible.

## DUTCH UNCLE

### TWO NEW B.S.

(B.S. 2072:1954) This British Standard specifies requirements for precast reinforced concrete hay barns with pitched roofs and is comparable with B.S. 1754 which was published in 1951 and covered steel hay barns with curved roofs. Price 2s 6d.

The standard provides for barns having truss centres of 15ft; spans of 24ft, 27ft and 30ft, and two heights of 15ft and 18ft. The basis for the design of the structural framing is given, together with requirements for the materials and workmanship.

(B.S. 2081:1954) This British Standard has been prepared to provide a criterion for assessing the adequacy of

the construction and basic design of portable chemical closets. Price 2s.

The appliance is of the self-contained type either with or without a separate sewage container, and whilst provision may be made for connecting to external ventilation, this is not to be an essential feature for compliance with the requirements given in the standard.

The requirements, so far as possible, have been based on performance and the general design is left to the individual manufacturer provided that there is compliance with certain overall dimensions and requirements for performance of the materials used in the construction.

Provision is made for the appliance to be marked with the B.S. number and there is also to be a permanent indication of the type of chemical fluid to be used with the particular design of the appliance.

It is proposed to issue a British Standard dealing with fluids for use in chemical closets and this is now in preparation but it was considered helpful to issue the British Standard for appliance in advance of the one for fluids since indication of a suitable fluid has to be given by the manufacturer, and this will ultimately include a reference to the B.S. for fluids.

## TIMBER NOTES

**A**FTER the first flush of cash sales of softwood from the merchants' yards following consumer freedom, the market has now settled to a much lower level, and many in the trade are concerned at the restriction upon trading imposed by present high softwood prices. However, there has been no sign of weakness in the softwood market, and good Scandinavian redwood productions are still priced at £80 and a little over for a standard on f.o.b. terms.

In the lower qualities there is expected to be some early weakness, but so far the market in 1954 has been strong. Canadian softwood is most competitive in price in spite of the higher freight. Much of the trouble over Scandinavian prices is to be found in the insistence of the building trade upon good redwood for many jobs, although the work can often be done in whitewood or lower-quality redwood.

Quite large sales of Government stocks are now taking place and will continue for a couple of months. Tenders are invited by the Timber Directorate for the whole of the national hardwood stock, with the bulk in oak, and tenders can be made by anyone. In the past sales have been restricted to the hardwood trade itself, but now the Government seems to be following the guide given by the Monopolies and Restrictive Practices Commission. The plywood stock is also being offered to all-comers, and now there is no need for the trade to buy this plywood to obtain import licences, for plywood imports from all countries outside the

dollar areas are to be freed from March 1.

Hardwood prices are now extremely low, and later imports will probably be at higher prices, so the opportunity presented by the present sales (which can be expected to show low values) must enable many businesses to obtain stocks cheaply. To a slightly lesser degree the same applies to the plywood stock.

Plywood import freedom has not been granted solely to the approved importers on the Timber Trade Federation list, but to any firm wishing to arrange such imports.

No real consolation on prices for softwood can be given the user to-day. Imports for the first half of this year will be at prices much higher than stocks now being sold, and the feeling in the trade is that there must be small hope of any reduction in softwood prices until after the summer.

Builders will be pleased to hear of increased import allowances to the trade for building board quotas. With supplies short in particular brands, and delivery dates quoted being several weeks ahead, this increase, which is approximately a fifth of the total quota import for the first six months of this year, will prevent any true shortage of board developing, and it is anticipated importing freedom will be granted for the second half of the year.

Stocks of softwood in Britain at the beginning of the year were estimated at slightly over 600,000 standards, with 650,000 standards under contract for delivery this year. Even with freedom from softwood consumer licensing, there can be no danger of any shortage this year.

## Fuel Efficiency Exhibition

**A**N exhibition promoting fuel efficiency and smoke abatement was opened by the Rt. Hon. Harold Macmillan, M.P., on Monday, February 15 in the small exhibition "hall" in Charing Cross Underground Station. The exhibition is organized by the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation, a group of firms producing 38,500,000 tons of smokeless fuel a year.

One of the main objects of the Federation is to ensure that solid, smokeless fuels are used efficiently as possible.

The objects of this exhibition are (a) to demonstrate the increased efficiency of modern appliances using solid smokeless fuels, and (b) to show the cause, effect and cure of smog. The exhibition also covers insulation and other methods of making the most of the heat when you have got it. The "live" part of the exhibition, various fires and stoves burning the recommended fuels, is coupled with a machine that measures smoke. The consumption of fuel is checked and the claimed efficiencies verified.

A number of interesting and very informative leaflets are available on the subject and there are fully qualified representatives to answer questions. The exhibition closes on March 9.

## MOSAICS

### SERVICES

#### ELECTRICAL ACCESSORIES

B5/37

A new type of 5 amp flush tumbler-switch for A.C. Circuits has been introduced by J. A. Crabtree & Co. Ltd., of Lincoln Works, Walsall, Staffs. In adopting the short break principle the switch unit is small and operates silently. The single unit can be had with either one or two-way switches, the double unit with two one-way, one one-way and one two-way or two two-way switches. All are made in Cream or Brown. There is available a selection of plaster depth and deep boxes for fixing.



#### PLANT WELDING EQUIPMENT E4/4

Philips Electrical Ltd., Century House, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2, have brought out a new Dual Current Rectifier which is designed to give an output of 40-240 amps A.C. or 10-80 amps D.C. In both A.C. and D.C. ranges the output is infinitely variable and a calibrated scale is fitted to indicate the welding current on either range.

The rectifier is suitable for connection to 3-phase 380-440 V. 50 cycle supply, it can also be supplied for 2-phase, 200-220 V. 50 cycle supply.



#### PLANT BLOCKMAKING MACHINE E8/6

The Sevec Model M Solid Blockmaking machine, distributed by Straight and Vines Ltd., 42, 43 Ilex House, Minories, London, E.C.3, will manufacture partition and walling blocks 18in x 9in x 2, 3 and 4in in thickness using concrete or breeze. This machine makes the block flat, a method recently developed. It is claimed to have many advantages over the usual vertical system, 300-325 blocks an hour can be made, 8 blocks a minute have been produced over short periods. The blocks are ejected on to a gravity roller conveyor which is supplied with the machine. The machine is now produced mounted on wheels.



#### FINISHES LIGHT DIFFUSING D2/4

Two recent additions to the range of contemporary light fittings by Falk, Stadelmann & Co. Ltd., 91 Farringdon Road, E.C.1. Top: The Capella, a surface mounted ceiling fitting with a pierced aluminium collar and 3-ply satin finished white-opal glass with a serrated edge aluminium reflector and steel ceiling plate. Below: The Almak, a semi-recessed ceiling fitting using the same collar and glass as the Capella. Cost: The Almak, £3 6s 8d, the Capella, £4 13s 4d.



## INDUSTRIAL NOTES

● THE March issue (out Feb. 26) of our associated journal, *Mechanical Handling*, will contain full advance details of the 4th Mechanical Handling Exhibition and Convention, which the journal is organizing at Olympia from June 9-19, 1954. Designed specially for overseas buyers, it will include an illustrated feature on the equipment to be displayed; a preliminary list of names and addresses; first notification of exhibition plans and facilities; and an advance Convention programme.

This biennial exhibition, covering over 250,000 sq ft of floor space, attracts buyers from all over the world—45,428 attended in 1952. Free admission tickets are available from the Exhibition Manager, Dorset House, Stamford Street, London, S.E.1.

Copies of the March issue of *Mechanical Handling*, price 2s 6d, can be obtained from all newsgagents, or direct from Dorset House.

● The Costain Company, Ltd., of Newmains, has issued a statement refuting a suggestion that the plant was being threatened with a closure. Contracts on hand will keep the plant at work for two years. The factory was established six years ago and is one of the biggest in the country engaged on the type of work involved, concrete sleeper manufacture. Since coming to Newmains, Costain have produced over a million concrete pre-stressed sleepers for British Railways. They are also making precast concrete floors for factories, hospitals, schools and houses and are also doing beams, bridge girders and lamp standards.

● Highworth Processes, Ltd., in making arrangement for the construction of the Highworth Houses, have granted to Messrs. Holland & Hannen and Cubitts for the area centred round London and Bristol the right of construction of all types other than the detached house for owner occupation.

Enquiries may be addressed either to Messrs. Holland & Hannen and Cubitts, Ltd., 1, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, S.W.1, or to Highworth Processes, Ltd., Highworth, Swindon, Wilts. It is hoped to continue this development and that in other districts contractors interested in the houses will communicate with Highworth Processes, Ltd.

The houses are accepted by Building Societies for maximum loans, and houses for owner occupation may be built by approved contractors with components supplied by Highworth Processes, Ltd.

● Timber to the value of nearly £164,000,000 was shipped to over 100 seaports in the United Kingdom in 1952; £360 worth of timber was also brought into airports.

From official records of H.M. Customs & Excise, the Timber Development Association has now produced a detailed analysis of these figures showing the quantities and values of every type of timber to arrive at each port and comparative figures are given for 1938, which has been taken as a typical pre-war year.

This is the third annual edition of T.D.A.'s port analysis of timber imports, a statistical survey which is not published elsewhere. Copies may be obtained from the Timber Development Association, 21, College Hill, London, E.C.4, at 1s each.

#### CORRECTION

In Mosaic No. A3/6 in the issue of 4th February, the reinforced wood wool slabs are manufactured by Halcrete Panels, Ltd., of Stockley, West Drayton, Middlesex, and not as stated.

Notes below give basic data of contracts open under locality and authority which are in bold type. References indicate: (a) type of work, (b) address for application. Where no town is stated in the

## CONTRACT • NEWS •

address it is the same as the locality given in the heading, (c) deposit, (d) last date for application, (e) last date and time for submission of tenders. Full details of contracts marked ★ are given in the advertisement section.

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### OPEN BUILDING

**ARNOLD U.C.** (a) (1) 8 garages, Killisick Housing Estate; (2) 7 garages, Cross Street Housing Estate. (b) Council's Surveyor, Arnot Hill House. (c) March 26.

**BATH C.C.** (a) Improvements to Roman Museum, Roman Baths. (b) City Planning Officer and Architect, 7, North Parade Buildings. (c) 2gns. (e) March 15.

**BEBINGTON B.C.** (a) 44 houses, Teehey Lane, Higher Bebington. (b) Borough Engineer, Brackenwood, Higher Bebington. (c) 2gns. (e) March 12.

**BOURNEMOUTH B.C.** (a) 34 houses and 12 bungalows, West Howe Estate. (b) Borough Architect, Town Hall. (c) 2gns. (e) March 16.

**BRACKLEY R.C.** (a) 30 houses, Kings Sutton, Northants. (b) Messrs. Forsyth Lawson, Cunningham and Partners, 30, Horse Fair, Banbury. (c) 2gns. (d) March 1.

**BRADFORD R.C.** (a) 9 pairs of bungalows with necessary site works, etc., Stephen's Firs, Mortimer, Berks. (b) Council's Clerk, Council Offices, 26, Bath Road, Reading. (c) 2gns. (e) March 5.

**BRADFORD C.C.** (a) 12 houses, Bradford Road, Clayton. (b) City Engineer, Town Hall, 1. (c) 2gns. (e) March 8.

**CARDIFF C.C.** (a) Erection of dwellings as follows, at Llanrumney, Cardiff: (Contract 1) 31 houses and bungalows; (Contract 2) 17 bungalows and flats; (Contract 3) 30 houses; (Contract 4) 46 houses; (Contract 5) 69 houses, flats and bungalows. (b) City Surveyor, City Hall. (c) 2gns. (e) March 13.

**CASTLE DONINGTON R.C.** (a) 2 pairs of houses and 1 shop, Main Street, Long Wharton. (b) Messrs. McCarthy, Collings and Co., 187, Forest Road, Coalville. (c) 2gns. (e) March 15.

**DOVER B.C.** (a) Terrace of 6 houses and 8 houses in pairs, with services and site works, Aycliffe. (b) Borough Engineer, Brook House. (c) 2gns. (e) March 9.

**FARNHAM U.C.** (a) 3 pairs of bungalows, Greenhill Way. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices Annexe, South Street. (c) 2gns. (e) March 20.

**FORMBY U.C.** (a) 5 houses, Cheapside site. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices. (c) 2gns. (e) March 16.

**GUILDFORD B.C.** (a) 57 pairs of houses, Park Barn; 3 blocks of 8 flats, Bushy Hill. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Offices, High Street. (c) 2gns. (e) March 22.

**GUILDFORD B.C.** (a) Conversion of old fire station, North Street, into a public convenience. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Offices, High Street. (c) 2gns.

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**HEYWOOD B.C.** (a) 12 houses, Moor Street. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Buildings. (c) 2gns. (e) March 8.

**HEYWOOD B.C.** (a) 12 houses, Barker Street. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Buildings. (c) 2gns. (e) March 8.

**HUYTON-WITH-ROBY U.C.** (a) 72 houses in 2 contracts of 36 houses each, St. John's Road (East) site. (b) Chief Architectural Assistant, Council Offices, Derby Road, Huyton. (c) 2gns. (e) March 19.

**LEEDS REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.** (a) Alterations to existing wards and erection of an occupational therapy hut, Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield. (b) Architect to the Board, Park Parade, Harrogate. (c) 2gns. (d) March 3. (e) April 6.

**HOLLAND C.C.** (a) Erection of Whaploade County Primary School. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Boston, Lincs. (d) March 1.

**LONDON-CAMBERWELL B.C.** (a) 6 blocks of flats and maisonnettes containing 130 dwellings, Permanent Housing Site No. 50 (Pelican Yard). (b) Town Clerk, Town Hall, Peckham Road, S.E.5. (c) 5gns. (d) March 8.

**LONDON-GREENWICH B.C.** (a) 8 terrace houses, Ormiston Road, S.E.10. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall, Greenwich High Road, S.E.10. (c) 2gns. (d) March 13. (e) April 7.

**LONDON-WALTHAMSTOW B.C.** (a) Sports pavilion at Chestnut Farm Sports Ground, E.17. (b) Borough Architect, Town Hall, Forest Road, E.17. (c) 2gns. (e) March 15.

**MAIDSTONE B.C.** (a) Improvements, etc., to Corn Exchange. (b) Borough Surveyor, Palace Avenue. (d) March 5. (e) March 30.

**NEWQUAY U.C.** (a) 22 houses with drainage and site works, etc., Double-stiles. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Chambers. (c) 5gns. (e) March 11.

**PLYMOUTH C.C.** (a) Reinstatement of blocks B and C of Stoke Schools (former Stoke Military Hospital Buildings). (b) Town Clerk, Pounds House, Peverell, Plymouth. (c) 3gns cheque payable to Council. (d) March 2.

**PRESTON B.C.** (a) Installation of new central heating and domestic hot and cold water systems, Alston Hall College of Further Education, Longrode, near Preston. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Building. (c) 2gns. (e) March 11.

**RICKMANSWORTH U.C.** (a) 8 shops with 8 2-storey maisonnettes over, Baldwin's Lane, Croxley Green. (b) Clerk of the Council, Council Offices; immediately. (c) 3gns. (e) March 22.

**RICKMANSWORTH U.C.** (a) 47 garages with site works, etc., at Berry Lane, Whitfield Way, Orchard Way and Shepherd's Farm Housing Estates. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices. (c) 2gns. (e) March 15.

**RUGBY B.C.** (a) 180 dwellings on section 1 of Abbots Farm Estate. (b) Borough Surveyor, Burford House, Church Walk. (c) 5gns. (e) March 5.



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**SCOTLAND—PORT GLASGOW.** (a) 46 houses, Park Farm site (all trades). (b) Scottish Special Housing Association, Ltd., 15-21, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, 12.

**SEVENOAKS R.C.** (a) 1 block of 4 ageing persons flats and 1 block of 4 2-bedroom flats, "The Charne," Otford. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Inglewood, Oak Hill Road. (c) 2gns. (d) March 3.

**SCOTLAND—WIGTOWN C.C.** (a) 2 houses about 4½ miles north-west of New Luce Village. (b) Messrs. Crouch and Hogg, 18, Woodside Crescent, Glasgow, C.3. (c) 2gns. (e) March 23.

**SOUTHBOROUGH U.C.** (a) 10 houses, Chestnut Avenue. (b) Messrs. Howes and Jackman, 1, Verulam Buildings, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.1. (c) 2gns. (e) March 15.

**SOUTH WESTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.** (a) Internal reconstruction of second floor Ward at Barncoose Hospital, Redruth. (b) Regional Architect, 27, Tyndalls Park Road, Bristol, 8. (c) 2gns. (d) Feb. 27.

**TRURO R.C.** (a) Adaptation of Building No. 51 into 8 dwelling units on Cameron Estate, St. Agnes. (b) Sanitary Inspector's Office, Rural Council Hall, River Street. (c) 1gn. (e) March 9.

**WEST RIDING C.C.** (a) Demolition of existing fire station in Wellhouse Road, Barnoldswick, and erection of a new 2-bay fire station. (b) County Architect, "Bishopgarth," Westfield Road, Wakefield. (c) 2gns. (e) March 10.

**WOKING U.C.** (a) Block of 26 flats, Barnsbury Farm Estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices. (c) 2gns. (d) March 1. (e) April 20.

## PLACED

Notes on contracts placed state locality and authority in bold type with (1) type of work, (2) site, (3) name of contractor and address, (4) amount of tender or estimate. † denotes that work may not start pending final acceptance, or obtaining of licence, or modification of tenders, etc.

**LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.** (1) Secondary school. (2) Wandsworth. (3) E. H. Smith (Croydon), Ltd., 48, Wellesley Road, Croydon. (4) £385,286. (1) Samuel Pepys secondary school. (2) Deptford. (3) C. P. Roberts and Co., Ltd., 31, High Holborn, W.C.1. (4) £137,300. (1) Secondary school. (2) Parliament Hill, N.W. (3) J. Garrett and Son, Ltd., Cathies Road, Balham Hill, S.W.12. (4) £183,195.

**WESTMINSTER.** (1) Multi-storey office block, for Site improvements, Ltd. (2) Victoria Street, S.W.1. (3) Holland & Hannen and Cubitts, Ltd., 1 Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.1. (4) Cost: £450,000.

**BRISTOL CORPORATION.** (1) 540 "Easiform" houses and flats. (2) Highridge Estate. (3) John Laing and Son, Ltd., London, N.W.7. (4) £805,226. (1) 8-storey block of flats. (2) Hotwell Road. (3) Wm. Cowlin and Son, Ltd., Bristol. (4) £132,341. (1) 56 "Unity" houses. (2) Highcliffe Estate. (3) Western Homes and Estates, Ltd. (4) £83,819.





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**CAMBERWELL B.C.** (1) 109 dwellings. (2) Croxted Road area. (3) W. J. Simms, Sons and Cooke, Ltd., Mount Street, London, W.1. (4) £248,086. (1) Re-development of large area. (2) Astley Street—Rowcross Street. (3) Negotiations proceeding with Wates, Ltd., 1258, London Road, Norbury, S.W.16.

**SHEFFIELD CORPORATION.** (1) 132 dwellings. (2) C. L. Marcroft, Ltd., 144, Baslow Road, Totley, Sheffield. (4) £139,904. (1) 95 dwellings. (2) Greenhill—Bradway estate. (3) W. L. Simpson, Ltd., 6, Cobner Road, Sheffield. (4) £109,187.

**LEAMINGTON SPA B.C.** (1) 269 non-traditional type houses. (2) Lillington. (3) Geo. Wimpey and Co., Ltd., Hammer-smith, W.6.

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Write for further information to Secretary, Advisory Committee on Colonial Colleges, 1, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1. Closing date for applications (6 copies) 15th March, 1954. [7698]

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The appointment will be subject to the terms of the Local Government Superannuation Acts and the person appointed will be required to pass a medical examination.

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JOHN KELLY,  
Clerk of the County Council.

County Buildings,  
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25th February, 1954. [7702]

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[7689]

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Intending applicants should apply for forms, stating for which post they wish to apply, to the County Architect, County Hall, March, to whom they must be returned not later than Tuesday, 16th March, 1954.

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[7668]

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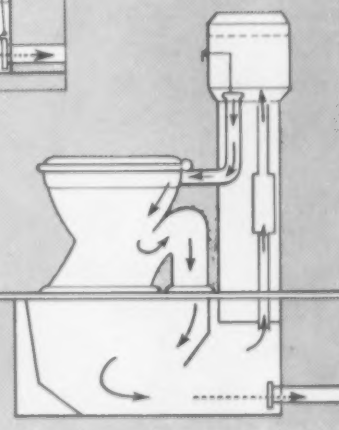
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